Date: 04 November 2025
Our ref: 531765
Your ref: APP/25/00081

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Havant Borough Council
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BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Sir/Madam,

Planning consultation: Application for a change of use of a vacant retirement home to provide temporary accommodation for homeless families in the borough of Havant.
Location: 54 Stockheath Road, Havant, PO9 5HQ

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 23 October 2025 which was received by Natural England on the same date.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

SUMMARY OF NATURAL ENGLAND'S ADVICE

NO OBJECTION - SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATE MITIGATION BEING SECURED

Natural England considers that without appropriate mitigation the application would have an adverse effect on the integrity of European designated sites.

Your authority has measures in place to manage potential impacts through contributions to an agreed strategic solution(s) which we consider to be ecologically sound. Natural England is of the view that if these measures, including contributions to them, are implemented, they will be effective and reliable in preventing harmful effects on the Habitats Site(s) for the duration of the proposed development. Mitigation measure(s) to offset any positive nutrient budget should be provided within the relevant catchment area(s).

We advise that an appropriate planning condition or obligation is attached to any planning permission to secure these measures.

A lack of objection does not mean that there are no significant environmental impacts. Natural England advises that all environmental impacts and opportunities are fully considered, and relevant local bodies are consulted.

Natural England's further advice on designated sites/landscapes and advice on other natural environment issues is set out below.

Further Advice

Natural England is a statutory consultee on the appropriate assessment stage of the Habitats Regulations Assessment process. The advice within this letter should be taken as Natural England's formal **representation on appropriate assessment** given under regulation 63(3) of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).

With regard to European Sites, Natural England does not object to the granting of this permission subject to the advice given below.

This application may lead to an increase in residential accommodation. Natural England is aware that your authority has adopted planning policy to mitigate against adverse effects from recreational disturbance. Provided that the applicant is complying with the policy and the Bird Aware Definitive Strategy, Natural England are satisfied that the Applicant has mitigated against the potential adverse effects of the development on the integrity of the European site(s) and has no objection to this aspect of the application. Please note, your authority's appropriate assessment should reflect the current developer contribution rates, which are updated every April in line with the Retail Price Index.

Your appropriate assessment dated 22 October 2025, concludes that your authority is able to ascertain that the proposal will not result in adverse effects on the integrity of any of the European sites in question. Having considered the assessment, and the measures proposed to mitigate for all identified adverse effects that could potentially occur as a result of the proposal, Natural England advises that we concur with the assessment conclusions, providing that all mitigation measures are appropriately secured in any planning permission given.

This advice is provided on the basis that all mitigation measures will be secured as planning conditions or obligations by your authority to ensure their strict and timely implementation for the full duration of the development. Your authority should be assured that proposed financial contribution rates are proportionate to the identified effects of the proposed development, suitably precautionary, and in line with the Retail Price Index, where relevant.

Deterioration of the water environment - Nutrient Neutrality

As Competent Authority it is your responsibility to ensure that you are confident that there is sufficient information to support the values used in any nutrient budget calculation that supports this application, and that any nutrient budget calculation(s) are correct.

Bespoke Occupancy

Where any bespoke occupancy value has been used within the calculator tool, it is Natural England's view that competent authorities may choose to adopt bespoke calculations for detailed planning applications, if sound robust evidence is available. These are matters for each competent authority. Natural England's advice is to take a precautionary approach that recognises any uncertainty.

Package Treatment Plant

Please note that for any budget that includes use of an onsite Package Treatment Plant (PTP), yourselves as competent authority should be satisfied that any bespoke effluent discharge figure has been suitably evidenced. This could be through using a performance test certificate, via adequate robust real-world monitoring data (minimum 12 months representing typical operation), or if these are not available then through use of the precautionary default figure within the nutrients budget calculator. The planning application should be supported by a PTP monitoring and maintenance plan. Please refer to the Environment Agency for comments on wider environmental consideration associated with PTPs and any advice in relation to permits.

Sustainable Drainage System

Where calculations include removal of nutrients through on-site Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDs) it is essential for your authority to verify that the necessary supporting evidence has been submitted, as

that forms the basis for the SuDS calculations. As highlighted in the guidance that accompanies the calculators on Gov.uk, Natural England advises that SuDS calculations should be undertaken in accordance with CIRIA guidance (C808 – Using SuDS to reduce phosphorus in surface water runoff (2022) and/or C815 – Using SuDS to reduce nitrogen in surface water runoff (2023)).

In addition, the SuDS features require monitoring and management in perpetuity. Your authority must ensure that a robust ongoing management plan is appropriately secured and is enforceable in any planning permission given.

Further general advice on consideration of protected species and other natural environment issues is provided at Annex A.

For any queries regarding this letter, for new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours faithfully,

Shannon Bowes
Central Casework Team
Natural England