

App/24/00186 Reserved Matters Application – Havant Thicket Reservoir Phase 2 – Wetland design.

[REDACTED] My objection is mainly to the plan for mounds/raised landforms, on the wet grassland north of the Wetland area.

It was not clear before March, when previous Maps and Plans were submitted, that mounds were planned for the northern shore. Will these mounds reduce the predation of birds and nests on the islands? If they become covered with vegetation they may provide cover for predators, such as foxes and birds of prey, to come closer to the water's edge.

[REDACTED] say that the mounds will increase habitat complexity and diversity, but in fact they will replace wet with dry grassland. There is already an enormous loss of wet grassland around the reservoir site, while the reservoir embankments will provide large areas of dry grassland. More is not needed. Wet grasslands provide an important habitat for insects and bats, plus grazing for wetland birds. They will also provide for a natural transition of habitats from the north shore of the wetlands to the woodland edge. By reducing wet grassland, the mounds will reduce biodiversity.

The mounds will not only reduce wet grassland but further reduce the area for birds to feed because they will block sight lines to the water. For safety when feeding, they will keep their distance from the woodland and want to have a clear route to escape. Therefore, even where wet grassland remains, having a mound nearby will deter birds from feeding.

Although Reedbeds are indicated in the latest cross-section plans, they are not apparent in the landscape plans. Reedbeds provide important habitat, and more detail is needed to show where and how these will be supported, in order to increase biodiversity

