

Comments on the Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Tree Protection Plan with reference to the discharge of Condition 27.

Comments on behalf of Havant Climate Alliance and Havant Friends of the Earth.

We are concerned about the cumulative loss of trees proposed (in addition to all those already lost on the reservoir site), particularly where that will threaten essential wildlife corridors to the east and west of the Reservoir. These corridors are already very narrow. Further tree loss should be avoided as much as possible, particularly where there are mature trees. Where it cannot be avoided, there should be further mitigation planting, both for carbon capture and biodiversity. Mitigation planting could also provide more screening for the Wetland area. We do not think that previous compensatory planting will be sufficient given that many of the original saplings died. Our advisor has also raised the need for more clarity and information in this assessment. At least we think that the Discharge of Condition 27 should be subject to discussion by the Planning Committee.

Some specific concerns by Zones detailed in the assessment:

Zone 1

There will be an impact of tree loss on the vital western wildlife corridor between Staunton Country Park and Cabbagefield Row. Have the ecological consequences been assessed? Can harm be avoided and connectivity maintained?

Zones 6 and 8

It is either not clear how many trees will be removed or whether their removal is essential in every case. Mitigation planting should be planned.

Zones 7 and 17

We doubt that the proposed bund is essential. How will it effect the woodland edge? Could more trees remain and provide screening without it?

Zones 8 and 13

We disagree that deciduous trees should be felled in the flooded woodland areas. They should be retained. Although the majority will decline and die, this will provide beneficial deadwood habitat.

Zones 11, 14, 18.

In northern tree translocation zones, dead trees should not be removed but left as standing deadwood habitat. Also stumps south of the former Corsican pine plantation should be left in place to add habitat complexity.

Zones 10 and 16.

In the northern area, strips of oak and goat willow should be left in the area subject to flooding. Even after they have become waterlogged they can continue to provide shelter and habitat.

Zones 21 and 22.

There will be an impact from scrub removal from the essential eastern wildlife corridor. Have the ecological consequences been assessed? Can harm be avoided and how will connectivity be maintained?

Zones 25 and 26

Additional fence protection is needed for the Staunton Country Park and Avenue stub of remaining ancient woodland.

Zone 29

Reservoir outfall and associated drainage structures should be designed to avoid the loss of any more trees from Round Wood. Woodland management is needed to increase the biodiversity of this relic of ancient woodland.

Zones 27, 30, 31, 32

Heras fencing needs to be moved further back from the boundary to provide a more robust buffer to protect the trees.

Zone 31

To avoid breaking the wildlife corridor here, could open cut pipeline trenching be avoided through this woodland block i.e. could tunneling be used instead?

Thank you.

