

Dear Sirs,

HBC reference: APP/24/00186

I wish to object to this application on the grounds that the plans have been altered significantly since the previous agreed plans.

The new designs that Future Water have submitted

(WETLANDS_ISLANDS_AND_EPHEMERAL_FEATURES_CROSS_SECTIONS_SHEET_1_OF_4-1908179 and WETLANDS_ISLANDS_AND_EPHEMERAL_FEATURES_CROSS_SECTIONS_SHEET_2_OF_4-1908168) show a new feature, a bund along the north shore of the wetland, labelled as a 'visual screening mound'.

This feature was not part of the outline design for the wetland that was given planning consent in 2021. The original design was the result of consultations with experts in wetland management and included other methods of visual screening.

One of the objectives of providing the wetland has been to provide areas of low vegetation near the northern shore which can be used by wildfowl and wading birds. By placing a bund on part of that area, there would be a loss of a significant part of that provision, with a loss of grazing area for these birds and thus a reduction in the biodiversity net gain of the reservoir project.

Another disadvantage of introducing a bund to this area would include restricting drainage from Havant Thicket into the reservoir to that provided by the headwater streams. Furthermore, the bund would be more visually intrusive.

In addition, I object to the revised placement of the hides. Their original planned locations were deliberate and the result of expert consultations.

Neither the proposal to build a bund nor the revised position of the hides were revealed to stakeholders at the wetland workshop [REDACTED] in December 2023. It has not been explained to [REDACTED] the Stakeholder group and the Environmental sub-group why these changes are being introduced.

I would suggest that this application is withdrawn in its present form and resubmitted with revised cross-sectional drawings.

Kind regards,

