

[REDACTED]

From: Farrar, Joanne [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 February 2021 11:14
To: Oliver, Lewis
Cc: 100 Planning - Havant Thicket
Subject: Havant Thicket - HBC Landscape Architect Consultation Comments (reservoir and pipeline)

Hello Lewis

I thought it might be useful to respond directly on Harry Mitchell's comments on the further information submitted.

The lack of access to the water to swim / water sports

We acknowledge Harry's disappointment that swimming won't be permitted in the reservoir. However, reservoirs are particularly unsuited to swimming. These are working sites, with submerged machinery, unpredictable currents and very cold, deep water. Measures to deter swimmers would be addressed at the detailed design stage, we would be looking at a package of measures in consultation with others, including Hampshire Fire and Rescue, and drawing on innovation used elsewhere. These measures could include use of physical obstacles, such as rocks designed into the scheme, signage, throwlines, regular safety talks at local schools, media and social media messaging and surveillance. We will also follow best guidance from RoSPA and National Water Safety Forum. RoSPA also offer training for effective safety management strategies for the recreational use of inland water sites which we would ensure the staff and volunteers working on site have appropriate training.

Portsmouth Water has had to work hard to develop an approach which provides a great recreational destination for the local community whilst ensuring protection of wildlife and habitats, and at the same time making sure the facility can operate effectively and safely as a working reservoir. As set out in our response to Harry's previous comments, consultation with key stakeholders identified that a 'medium' activity strategy has the strongest fit with the project objectives considered and the site's environmental capacity and there was a high level of community support for this scenario which will ensure the quiet and rural nature of the Site is maintained. The reservoir water wouldn't be suitable for coarse fishing but Portsmouth Water is talking to the Angling Trust to see if other types of fishing would be possible.

Failure to provide a circular off road footpath / cycle route around the perimeter of the lake

The application drawings illustrate a circular footpath/cycle route around the lake and the Design and Access Statement provides some information on this. The distance for the long circular route around the reservoir utilising the crest is 5km and less than 2km route for a shorter circuit through the woodland to the north. The detailed design of the routes and their surfacing will be addressed at detailed design stage. Access points will be from: the east at the existing Forestry England 'Forest of Bere' car park; south east at Gypsies Plain via an improved access at Cedar Drive; the connection to Staunton Country Park along the Avenue; from Swanmore Road to the east by the viewing area; and in the north west corner from the car park.

Poor siting of play area next to bin store

The layout of the visitor facilities in the north west corner is illustrative but we have provided our rationale for the general location of the play area in our response to Harry's previous comments. The exact location of the bin store will be determined at reserved matter stage. His comments will inform the detailed design stage which will be subject to further consultation, we would welcome Harry's involvement in the layout of the visitor facilities at the appropriate time.

Root Protection Areas (RPAs)

RPAs are shown on the relevant plans for the access points and access routes. They are also included in the Arboricultural Assessment. Table 3.2 in the Record of Environmental Actions and Commitments in the Outline Environmental Management Plan (ES Volume 4 Appendix A2.1) records Portsmouth Water's commitments to undertake tree surveys, update the Arboriculture Impact Assessment, prepare an Arboricultural Method Statement

and tree protection plans, and Ecological Mitigation and Management Plans for agreement with the Local Planning Authority as part of the detail design to avoid, retain and protect mature trees during the works.

Shared cycle routes should be a minimum of 3m width

This is noted, the detailed design will incorporate this standard. The Design and Access Statement refers to the HCC design standard for bridleways of a minimum 3m wide path. The operational maintenance track and crest pathway are proposed to be 4m wide and permissive paths around the Visitor Centre will be a minimum 2m wide.

Pipeline – protection of trees

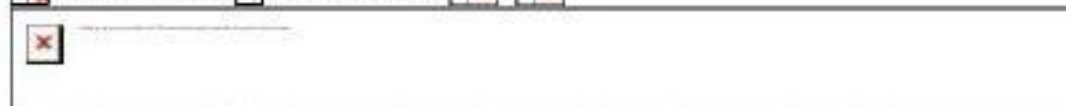
The pipeline route is illustrative but will be within the red line boundary, all mature trees, including veterans, will be protected through appropriate mitigation measures or through the realignment of the route to avoid trees. In addition, damage to existing trees, shrubs, hedges and other significant vegetation to be retained on site will be minimised. Table 3.2 in the Record of Environmental Actions and Commitments (REAC) in the Outline Environmental Management Plan (OEMP) (ES Volume 4 Appendix A2.1) records Portsmouth Water's commitments to undertake tree surveys, update the Arboriculture Impact Assessment, prepare an Arboricultural Method Statement and tree protection plans, and Ecological Mitigation and Management Plans for agreement with the Local Planning Authority as part of the detail design to avoid, retain and protect mature trees during the works (see PipelineB4 and B6 and PipelineLV1-3).

Kind regards
Joanne

Joanne Farrar BA(Hons), MSc, MRTPI
Director Planning and Environmental Consenting
UK & Europe
Engineering, Design and Project Management



02032148889 07808765495



Nova North, 11 Bressenden Place, Westminster, London SW1E 5BY



Company



Mon - Thur

This email and any attached files are confidential and copyright protected. If you are not the addressee, any dissemination of this communication is strictly prohibited. Unless otherwise expressly agreed in writing, nothing stated in this communication shall be legally binding. The ultimate parent company of the Atkins Group is SNC-Lavalin Group Inc. Registered in Québec, Canada No. 059041-0. Registered Office 455 boul. René-Lévesque Ouest, Montréal, Québec, Canada, H2Z 1Z3. A list of Atkins Group companies registered in the United Kingdom and locations around the world can be found at <http://www.atkinsglobal.com/site-services/group-company-registration-details>

Consider the environment. Please don't print this e-mail unless you really need to.