



International Wader Study Group

To:
FAO Mrs D Haywood
Planning Department
Public Service Plaza
Civix Centre Road
Havant,
Hampshire, PO9 2AX

 *Chair of the Executive
Committee of International Wader Study Group*

*Conservation Ecology Group
University of Groningen
PO Box 11103
9700 CC Groningen
The Netherlands
Phone: +31 (0) 6 4407 0493
Email: chair@waderstudygroup.org*

Groningen, 22 January 2020

Dear Mrs D Haywood,

I am writing on behalf of the Executive Committee of International Wader Study Group to express our concerns over the proposed development at the Land East of College Road, Campdown, Purbrook, Waterlookville.

The International Wader Study Group (IWSG) has been made aware of the development and having read the associated documents **object** to the proposals due to our concern over the loss of large areas of SPA supporting habitat for wintering waders and brent geese as well as the inadequacy of the proposed mitigation plan to compensate for this loss. We have also read the excellent and informed criticism by RSPB and support their conclusions. The area proposed is not adequate enough to mitigate the impacts arising from the proposed development on the qualifying species using the land around the special Protection Areas of Chichester and Langstone Harbours.

IWSG is making this objection due to our knowledge of the importance of SPA sites for maintaining wintering bird populations as well as the impacts of disturbance in the declines of wader populations in the East-Atlantic Flyway. These have been dominant topics during our recent annual IWSG Conferences, and in various publications on waders. Wading bird populations in the SPAs of concern to this proposal come from populations across Europe (in particular the Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, Poland, Sweden and Finland) and as such breeding pairs will be subsequently affected through the loss of mid-winter feeding habitat. Of particular concern to us are species such as the curlew (*Numenius arquata*) which are particularly under threat at this moment (Pearce-Higgins et al. 2017) and are mentioned to be using the site in your habitat survey.

IWSG therefore **objects** to the proposals and asks that the council will impose a high standard of protection to the sites (as required under the Birds and Habitats Directives) and make sure that there will be no significant effects on the SPAs in question and as a result the species present on these vital areas.

Yours sincerely,



Chair International Wader Study Group