

Havant Thicket Reservoir

Ecological Mitigation, Compensation and Enhancement Measures

Phase 5 Reserved Matters - Discharge of Planning Condition 36

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1 Introduction and Background to the Scheme

1.1 Purpose of this Report

This reports purpose is to provide the Local Planning Authority with details of the ecological mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures and monitoring of mitigation measures for Phase 5 as required by Condition 36 attached to the Section 73 planning permission granted by Havant Borough Council (HBC) for the development of a pumped storage reservoir and associated infrastructure on land at Havant Thicket (reference APP/24/00312), hereafter referred to as 'the Scheme'.

Planning Condition 36 states:

Condition 36: Ecological Mitigation, Compensation and Mitigation Measures:

No phase of the development approved under Condition 4 shall commence until full details of all ecological mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures (to be informed as necessary by up-to-date survey and assessment) and on-going monitoring of mitigation measures required for each reserved matters application (including both ecological works directly related to that Development Phase reserved matters area and any works associated with that area but lying outside of the boundary of that area) shall be submitted for approval to the Local Planning Authority. Such details shall be in accordance with the ecological mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures detailed within the Outline Biodiversity Mitigation and Compensation Strategy (ECOSA, September 2020), the Habitats Regulations Assessment (Atkins/Portsmouth Water, September 2020) and the Implementation Plan for Off Site Biodiversity Mitigation and Compensation (Atkins, April 2021). Any such approved measures shall thereafter be implemented in strict accordance with the agreed details and with all measures maintained in perpetuity, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: *To protect and enhance biodiversity in accordance with the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019, NERC Act 2006, NPPF and Policy CS 11 of the Havant Borough Core Strategy March 2011.*

1.2 Planning Context

The Havant Thicket Reservoir Scheme was granted planning permission subject to conditions in October 2021, by Havant Borough Council and East Hampshire District Council (application refs. APP/20/00990 and 51680/001 respectively). The decision is for a hybrid application and includes full permission for some matters and outline permissions for others.

The applications which formed the subject of the Hybrid Consent were supported by an Environmental Statement (ES) (Havant Thicket Reservoir Project, Atkins, 2020) which reported the findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

Section 73 planning permissions were granted by Havant Borough Council and East Hampshire District Council in 2024 (application references APP/24/00312 and 51680/012 respectively) which included a number of amendments to the design of the main embankment and related infrastructure. The Section 73 applications were supported by an ES Addendum (2024) which reported the findings of the EIA considering the proposed amendments to the main embankment, Control House, culvert and valve tower. The ES Addendum (2024) considered both the revised Control House location and increased size.

2 Ecological Background

The Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) (doc ref. HTR-POR-ZZ-ZZ-RP-K-0004) prepared for the Scheme sets out the long-term management of habitat creation and enhancement areas required as compensation for the effects of the Scheme.

The LEMP is based on mitigation and compensation measures for landscape and ecology set out in:

- the ES submitted with the planning application in 2020
- the ES Addendum submitted in 2024 to support the S73 planning application to address proposed changes to the Scheme
- the Biodiversity Mitigation and Compensation Strategy (doc ref. HTR-ATK-ZZ-ZZ-RP-Y-0001)

3 Phase 5 Reserved Matters Design

The Control House (Phase 5 of the Scheme) is required to store operational equipment for the monitoring, control and daily running of the reservoir and will be embedded within the southern section of the main reservoir embankment.

The design of the Control House accords with the parameters, principles and standards set out in the Section 73 Development Specification (2024), as follows:

- Maximum area of building = 566 m²
- Height of the security fencing = 3 m
- Height of building frontage = 6 m
- Width of building frontage = 25 m.

The following drawings have been prepared by Future Water for the Phase 5 Reserved Matters application:

- HTR-GHD-CB-RE-DR-T-0020 P02 – Control Building Application Boundary
- HTR-GHD-CB-RE-DR-T-0021 P02 – Conservation Area Boundary
- HTR-GHD-CB-RE-DR-T-0001 P06 - Control Building Planning Site/Roof Plan
- HTR-GHD-CB-RE-DR-T-0002 P06 - Control Building Planning Ground Floor Plan
- HTR-GHD-CB-RE-DR-T-0004 P06 - Control Building Planning Building Sections
- HTR-GHD-CB-RE-DR-T-0005 P06 - Control Building Planning Front And Side Elevations
- HTR-GHD-CB-RE-DR-T-0006 P06 - Control Building Planning Rear And Side Elevations
- HTR-GHD-CB-RE-DR-T-0022 P05 – Control Building Landscape Plan
- HTR-GHD-CB-RE-DR-T-0023 P03 – Control Building Landscape Cross Sections Sheet 1
- HTR-GHD-CB-RE-DR-T-0024 P04 – Control Building Landscape Cross Sections Sheet 2

The Control House will comprise a reinforced concrete outer structure with cladding to the front of the building, a composite roof slab with a green roof and a steel frame with blockwork internal walls. The front face of the building will be a solid wall with access gates and doors.

A palette of natural materials sympathetic to its surroundings is proposed, with large areas of living roof and a combination of knapped flint blocks with red facing bricks for the front façade. Green slope retaining walls form the courtyard of the Control House.

Perimeter security fencing will be required around all accessible retained sides of the internal courtyard. The courtyard will be used for secure parking and offloading of maintenance vehicles, including (infrequent) heavy goods vehicles (HGVs), and will be finished with a compacted gravel surface laid on top of a grid system.

4 Ecological Mitigation Measures

The Control House will incorporate a green roof which will provide benefit for flora and fauna, and is consistent with the objectives for the main reservoir embankment design in the Phase 3 Reserved Matters applications submitted in 2024.

The reinforced earth retaining walls that form the courtyard of the Control House will be vegetated with a wildflower mix grassland which will provide benefit for flora and fauna. This is a positive design evolution which will provide additional biodiversity enhancements and is consistent with the objectives for the main reservoir embankment design in the Phase 3 Reserved Matters applications submitted in 2024.

Integrated bat boxes will be provided within the upper corners of the front façade of the Control House which will provide a permanent roosting space for bats within the building structure. Visual inspections to monitor the usage of these bat boxes will be undertaken by Portsmouth Water as part of site-wide ecological activities, with an annual inspection/ maintenance visit undertaken as part of the maintenance visit for the Control House Reinforced Earth Retaining Walls (as detailed in HTR-FUW-P5-CB-PL-W-1714).

4.1 Lighting

Operational lighting for the Control House will only be required during hours of darkness. When the Control House building is unoccupied, no external lighting will be in operation within the Control House courtyard. Inspection or planned maintenance visits will only take place during the working day and therefore during much of the year lighting will not be required for this.

Measures will be implemented to reduce the potential for any impact of lighting on bats. These include using downwardly directional, external compound lighting with a low UV, having a 'warm white' correlated colour temperature (CCT) that should not exceed 3000°K.

In winter when daylight length is shorter, bat activity is reduced, compared with summer. As such, disturbance from artificial lighting would be temporary and limited in extent. Lighting will only be in use when required by personnel attending the building with a backup motion sensor in the event that lights stay on for longer than is required.

A Lighting Strategy has been prepared for the Control House (doc ref. HTR-FUW-P5-CB-RP-W-1712). The Lighting Strategy has been developed with reference to the Guidance Note GN08/23 Bats and Artificial Lighting at Night (ILP, 2023), published by the Institution of Lighting Professionals (ILP).

A review of the Lighting Strategy has been conducted by a bat specialist in Technical note HTR-RHD-CB-CB-RP-Z-0001. The mitigation measures outlined in the Lighting Strategy will ensure impacts on local bat populations are minimised.

5 Construction Environmental Management

A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) (doc ref. HTR-RHD-P2-RE-PL-Z-0018) has been prepared by Future Water in support of the construction works.

The CEMP is a 'live' document and will be maintained by Future Water throughout the life of the Scheme.

The CEMP will be developed into the Handover Environmental Management Plan (HEMP) upon completion of the construction works to pass crucial environmental information to those bodies responsible for future maintenance and operation of the asset. Future Water will be responsible for preparing the HEMP and Construction Phase Health and Safety Plan on completion of construction, for handover to the managing agent.

Portsmouth Water, Future Water and its subcontractors are all responsible for adhering to and complying with the Scheme objectives, relevant environmental legislation, bylaws and regulations. It is a requirement that all site personnel are made aware of their duty of care to the environment, including local communities, and will be provided with adequate training, supervision or instruction in the form of tool box talks, site induction modules and specific method statements as necessary.

Responsibilities for site environmental management will be delegated to key personnel by Future Water. These personnel will be responsible for the implementation, reporting and monitoring of environmental mitigation during construction. Where required, environmental specialists will provide advice on specific issues or site activities.

5.1 Post-construction Environmental Management Responsibilities

Portsmouth Water will produce a Site Management Plan for the reservoir site, which will confirm roles and responsibilities for the management and maintenance of the site for as long as the Approved Scheme remains open and operational. The Site Management Plan will be administered by a Site Management Board.

The Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) (doc ref. HTR-POR-ZZ-ZZ-RP-K-0004) sets out the long-term management of habitat creation and enhancement measures undertaken within the site as compensation for each Phase.

To provide detail relating to the Control House, a Control House Retaining Wall Management Plan (doc ref. HTR-FUW-P5-CB-PL-W-1714) has been produced and submitted alongside the Reserved Matters application. This Management Plan provides information on how the reinforced earth retaining walls will be established, maintained and managed in order to ensure the planting is successful and sustained in perpetuity. The plan is to be appended to the LEMP during its next revision, as the LEMP sets out long-term management of landscape and biodiversity features site-wide.

6 Monitoring during Construction

The Main Reservoir Works CEMP (doc ref. HTR-RHD-P2-RE-PL-Z-0018) describes the ecological monitoring requirements during construction of the main reservoir works.

7 Record of Environmental Actions and Commitments

The Record of Environmental Actions and Commitments (REAC) summarises the committed mitigation measures within the chapters of the published Environmental Statement (ES) (Atkins, 2020) and associated appendices and when the action is to be implemented (e.g. at pre-construction, construction, operation, or all stages).

The construction stage actions and commitments are included in the CEMP.

Ecological commitments identified in the REAC / CEMP that are relevant to Phase 5 are provided in Table 1.

Table 1 Extracts from the CEMP (Appendix D) Record of Environmental Actions and Commitments (doc ref. HTR-RHD-P2-RE-PL-Z-0018)

Ref	ES ref	Objective	Actions/ commitments (incl. specific location and any monitoring required)	Assumptions (on which the action is based)	Achievement criteria and reporting requirements	When P - Pre- construction C - Construction O - Operation A - All	Completion record
B3	CH9	To assist appointed construction contractor in meeting biodiversity requirements	Ecological Clerk of Works (ECOW) to be appointed, to be full time on site during site preparation and clearance and during any works in sensitive areas, and to undertake regular monitoring visits throughout construction programme.	ECOW to be appointed by contractor will be suitably qualified and experienced ecologist.	Quarterly ECOW progress reports to be provided to the LPA	C	Initial: FW. Date: Ongoing Note: An ECOW has been appointed and appropriate monitoring visits are undertaken through the construction programme. Quarterly Ecology Reports are issued to the LPAs.

Ref	ES ref	Objective	Actions/ commitments (incl. specific location and any monitoring required)	Assumptions (on which the action is based)	Achievement criteria and reporting requirements	When P - Pre- construction C - Construction O - Operation A - All	Completion record
B23	CH9	Protection of bats from indirect harm	<p>Mitigation will be provided for lighting during construction and operation.</p> <p>Any temporary lighting required during construction will be designed to minimise light spill.</p> <p>The lux level will be as low as possible to meet their purpose safely and effectively.</p>	Stakeholder comments will be obtained from LPA and Natural England on detailed lighting design.	<p>Integrated bat boxes will be provided within the upper corners of the Control House front façade.</p> <p>Quarterly ECoW progress reports to be provided to LPA during construction.</p>	A	<p>Initial: FW.</p> <p>Date: Ongoing</p> <p>Artificial lighting will be designed to ensure impacts on local bat populations are minimised.</p>