

Dear Narinder,

Thank you for consulting Sport England on the application for the discharge of conditions 8 (Surface water drainage scheme), 15 (Playing Field Reinstatement), 29 (Construction Lighting) and 33 (Site Compound Details for Phase 2b).

Sport England has consulted the RFU on the application and we have received the following comments.

In relation to condition no.8 (surface water drainage scheme), the RFU comments that the scheme suggests throughout that both the compound areas and haul roads will be constructed from 'permeable aggregate underlain by a permeable geotextile membrane'. What measures are in place to ensure all aggregate is safely removed from the playing field site on completion of the scheme?

The RFU adds that the document suggests throughout that the compound and haul road construction will allow surface water to drain freely via existing drainage measures and will not negatively contribute to existing levels of surface water. What measures are in place to monitor an adverse effect of construction on the adjacent playing field areas outside of the red line boundary of the scheme?

The RFU comments that it is suggested that the issues above will be monitored via a weekly inspection by the Site Manager. Can a weekly liaison or reporting mechanism with Havant RFC be built in to ensure collaborative efforts throughout to protect the adjacent playing surfaces?

In relation to condition no.15, the RFU welcomes the reference to the agronomy report carried out in August 2024 and the intent to return the surface to existing or better quality. The RFU considers that many of the key task are included but reads more like a tender document for appointing a contractor.

- The RFU would like to see more detail around the works that will take place, using what specification of materials and at what time of year. Some indicative timelines for the reinstatement period to take into account different start points

in the year and various growing periods would be of value, ideally presented as a Gant chart.

- Drawing No. HTR -ATK- PL- XX -DR- L- 0003 is stated as showing the areas to be reinstated but this does not show the area known by the club as Dingley Dell which is identified for the southern compound. Can it be confirmed that this area will also be reinstated as part of the scheduled works?
- Section 13 references contractor liability for settlement issues limited to 12 months – what is the provision for any ongoing settlement issues beyond this timeframe?
- Section 15.1 – suggestion that irrigation will be required during the grow-in period – who will be responsible for meeting the irrigation obligations and which organisation will be responsible for the associated cost of water required?
- Reference made throughout the document to Key Stage monitoring and handover – it is recommended that an independent agronomist is appointed to monitor the key stages and sign-off the reinstatement prior to handover.

Sport England notes the comments from the RFU and we welcome further information from the agent on these points above before conditions no. 15 and 8 can be discharged.

Many thanks

Owen Neal (MRTPI)