

Your ref: Chichester Harbour Conservancy

Our ref: Planning Recommendation



Havant Borough Council
Development Management
Public Service Plaza
Civic Centre Road
Havant
PO9 2AX

BY EMAIL ONLY

2 February 2026

Dear Jennie,

Application: APP/25/01009

Location: 7 Langstone High Street, Havant, PO9 1RY

Description of development: Proposed loft conversion with rear dormer

Chichester Harbour Conservancy is a unique organisation in that it is the only Harbour Authority with statutory responsibility for a National Landscape (NL). Further details are explained in the Appendix to this response.

Please note that the above case has been considered under the fully officer delegated protocol of The Conservancy.

Chichester Harbour Conservancy's Response

Recommendation – No objection, subject to the local planning authority first obtaining an amended plan where all the proposed elevations tally with one another and a downpipe is shown for the gutter to the dormer window fascia. Also that the actual appearance/method of opening of existing fenestration as seen in the photographs of the design and access statement be correctly drawn on the existing rear elevation drawing.

A condition is suggested to secure natural slate materials to clad the dormer face and cheeks to match the main slate roof.

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An informative is suggested reminding the developer of their responsibilities under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, should bats be discovered when the roof is 'opened-up' to construct the rear dormer window.

Officer reasoned justification

I visited the site on 30 January 2026 and had regard to the policy framework* below in making these comments.

Mid- terrace cottage (undesigned heritage asset/not statutorily Listed) within Langstone Conservation Area (designated in 1975) and Chichester Harbour National Landscape (NL (formerly AONB designated 1964) - the latter not mentioned in the design and access statement).

The usual permitted development rights for dormer windows do not apply in a NL, hence this planning application. Presumably application APP/25/00829 will be declined for that reason.

The closest Listed Building is at 8 High Street.

Properties are flat onto the back edge of pavement, white painted face brickwork, chimney in red brick and slate roof. White UPVc sliding sash windows to front, although front door still appears to be timber, judging by the slender glazing bars to the upper, glazed part. To the rear, previous wooden sliding sash windows (incorrectly suggested in the existing rear elevation – which ought to also be corrected) now appear to be UPVc casement window frameworks.

Viewed from the rear across a field from public footpath 108/54b/1, several properties in the High Street have rear dormer windows of varying proportions. The agent cites two recent precedents –

- APP/21/00740 (No. 11, granted 13/10/2021 (not strictly comparable as a rooflight in a thatched roof was approved); and,
- APP/21/00767 (No. 27, granted 4/11/2021 (again not strictly comparable as a rooflight in a tiled roof was approved)) .

As drawn, not all elevations of the proposed dormer window tally. The dormer roof on the 'right hand elevation' is lower than the existing main roof ridge, whereas other elevations show it contiguous with the roof ridge. This should be corrected and a downpipe shown from the gutter before a decision is issued.

Page 15, paragraph 2.1.2 of the CACA and Management Plan for the CA sets out –

“Overall, any proposed changes to a building in the conservation area should be sympathetic to the original design, scale, materials and setting of the building...(in particular original ... roof coverings) should be respected and retained...The Council’s generalised advice would include: - The importance of the roofscape means that alterations need to be carefully considered so as to maintain their simplicity i.e. avoiding bulky dormer windows...”.

Paragraphs 5.47 to 5.49 of the Borough Design Guide advise –

“5.47 Dormers are considered an acceptable way of providing light and ventilation to existing buildings. They should be designed to sit back into the roof, back from the front line of the wall below, in from the verge and below the existing ridge line.

5.48 Dormers should not dominate the roof or the existing building. To help avoid this they should be the same size or preferably smaller than the windows below.

5.49 Special consideration needs to be given to dormers in conservation areas, historic town and village centres and adjacent to listed buildings. In these instances consideration needs to be given to the local context. Dormers may not be appropriate in these instances.”

I could not find any planning history related to other rear dormers I could see from footpath 108/54b/1. It is possible they may be original or built prior to when permitted development rights for such structures were removed in AONB's (now NL's).

They do however provide a '*local context*'.

The width of the proposed dormer has largely been driven by the position of the stairwell within the dwelling and is not dissimilar to the width of other rear dormers I could see near to the site.

Headroom has dictated that the dormer roof will probably be contiguous with the existing roof ridge. At least the dormer cheek has been pulled in at one side.

It is not clear how the larger window in the rear dormer would open. Its proportions (and that of the window to the en-suite WC) also seem too wide, compared to the portrait proportions of the window beneath it. Perhaps this is something the local planning authority could clarify before a decision is issued.

Langstone Conservation Area and the NL deserve more care and attention to detail in these proposals.

*Policy framework

NPPF (December 2024 as adjusted 7-2-2025) paragraphs – 1-3, 6-12, 20, 29, 40, 48, 56, 131, 133, 135, 139, 187, 189, 202-203, 207-208, 210, 212, 216, 231-232; **NPPG (2014 onwards) ID's** - 6-8, ID18a, ID21a, ID26; **Havant Borough Local Plan (Core Strategy) 2011** - CS11-CS12, CS16; **Havant Borough Local Plan (Allocations) DPD 2014** - AL1, DM20; **Havant Local Plan Building a better future (2025)** – 2, 11-12, 15-18, 24, 30, 43; **Chichester Harbour Management Plan 2025-2030**: Policy aim 4.4; **CHC Planning Principles** (adopted by CHC 17.10.2016 onwards) – 01, 03; **SPG/SPD** - Joint CHAONB SPD; Borough Design Guide; Langstone Conservation Area CACA & Management Plan (July 2011)

Yours sincerely,

Steve Lawrence MRTPI

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Appendix

Chichester Harbour National Landscape (NL - formerly AONB)

Chichester Harbour was designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in 1964. It is the smallest mainland NL in England, and in terms of moorings, it is largest recreational sailing and boating harbour in Europe. Chichester Harbour is quite rightly regarded as a nationally important protected landscape.

Local Planning Authorities must seek to further the purposes of the NL.

The primary purpose of the NL designation is to **conserve and enhance the natural beauty**. In pursuing the primary purpose, account should be taken of the needs of agriculture, forestry, other rural industries and of the economic and social needs of local communities. Regard should be paid to promoting sustainable forms of social and economic development that in themselves conserve and enhance the environment. Recreation is not an objective of designation, but the demand for recreation should be met insofar as it is consistent with the conservation of natural beauty and the needs of agriculture, forestry, and other uses.

The management of the NL was formalised through the Countryside and Rights of Way Act of 2000 with Chichester Harbour Conservancy appointed as the Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) for the AONB.

Chichester Harbour Conservancy

Chichester Harbour Conservancy was established in 1971. It is a unique organisation in that it is the only Statutory Harbour Authority with responsibility for the NL. Its purposes extend beyond that of other NL's, to include leisure, recreation, and the conservation of nature.

Section IV, part 21, of the 1971 Act states:

21.– (1) It shall be the function of the Conservancy, subject to the provisions of this Act, to take such steps from time to time as to them seem meet for the conservancy, maintenance and improvement of–

- a) The harbour, for the use of pleasure craft and such other vessels as may seek to use the same;
- b) The amenity area, for the occupation of leisure and recreation and the conservation of nature:

and the facilities (including, in relation to the harbour, navigational facilities) afforded respectively therein or in connection therewith.

(2) In the fulfilment of the function with which they are charged by subsection (1) of this section, the Conservancy shall have regard to the desirability of conserving the natural beauty and amenity of the countryside and of avoiding interference with fisheries.

The full text of the Chichester Harbour Conservancy Act of 1971 is published on the Conservancy's website.

<https://www.conservancy.co.uk/page/279-the-conservancy>

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Chichester Harbour Conservancy's Planning Committee

Chichester Harbour Conservancy utilises a member-led Planning Committee to act on behalf of the Conservancy Board in responding to planning applications and consultations. Membership is derived from the Conservancy Board and the Statutory Advisory Committee. The Planning Committee meet every 6-8 weeks. The Conservancy's Case Officer reports, agendas, and minutes of past meetings are on the Conservancy's website.

<https://www.conservancy.co.uk/page/committees-and-meetings>

Chichester Harbour Statutory Management Plan

The Chichester Harbour Management Plan (2019-2025) details the 10 Special Qualities of the NL and features 15 policies to guide the management of the protected landscape. Chichester Harbour Conservancy prepared the Management Plan on behalf of the Local Planning Authorities: Chichester District Council, Havant Borough Council, West Sussex County Council, and Hampshire County Council. Prior to adoption, the Plan was subject to a public consultation over 8 weeks. The Plan is a material planning consideration under Policy CS12 of the Havant Borough Core Strategy (2011-2026). This means it is relevant to making planning decisions in and around Chichester Harbour (whether to grant or refuse an application for planning permission).

<https://www.conservancy.co.uk/page/management-plan>

<https://www.havant.gov.uk/local-plan>

Chichester Harbour Planning Principles

Chichester Harbour Conservancy has developed 19 Planning Principles to guide development in and around the NL. These Planning Principles can be read in Section 3 of the Management Plan. The Planning Principles directly inform whether a planning application is likely to be supported by the Conservancy.

<https://www.conservancy.co.uk/page/planning>

Chichester Harbour NL Landscape Character Assessment

The purpose of the Landscape Character Assessment is to provide an understanding of the unique landscape character and special qualities of the Chichester Harbour AONB to inform the development of NL Management Plans and wider planning policy. The Chichester Harbour NL - (or AONB, as it was at the time of publication) - Landscape Character Assessment was first published in 2005, and subsequently reviewed in 2018. The Landscape Character Assessment is a material planning consideration.

<https://www.conservancy.co.uk/page/management-plan>

The Joint Supplementary Planning Document for the NL

Chichester Harbour Conservancy supported two Local Planning Authorities (Chichester District Council and Havant Borough Council) to jointly publish guidance on development proposals in Chichester Harbour NL -(or AONB, as it was at the time of publication) - which was adopted in 2017. It expands upon the relevant policies in the Local Plans, particularly relating to the design of replacement dwellings and extensions and provides photographic examples showing the impacts of developments and suggested techniques for limiting those impacts. The Joint SPD is a material planning consideration.

In addition to the guidance within the main part of the SPD, there are several further issues to consider if you are proposing to undertake development or works within the Chichester Harbour NL. Applicants may need at least one of several consents, including: Planning Permission; other

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Local Authority Consents; a Marine Licence from the Marine Management Organisation; Consent from Natural England; Consent from the Environment Agency; and/or a Works Licence from the Chichester Harbour Conservancy (see below).

<https://www.conservancy.co.uk/page/planning>

NL Impact Statement

It is best practice for all planning applications inside the NL to submit an NL Impact Statement to the Local Planning Authority. This Statement will detail how the application: a) will conserve and enhances natural beauty; b) complement the special qualities of the NL; b) will deliver the adopted policies in the Statutory Management Plan. The level of detail provided in the NL Impact Statement is expected to reflect the relative complexity of the planning application. A NL Impact Statement is also a good idea for planning applications outside of the boundary, but close enough to affect the character and setting of the protected landscape (within 500m).

<https://www.conservancy.co.uk/page/management-plan>

Conservancy's Works Licence

The Chichester Harbour Conservancy Act 1971 (Sections 45, 47 and 48) makes it an offence for any person to construct, alter, renew, or extend any works on, under or over tidal waters or tidal lands below the level of Mean High-Water Springs in Chichester Harbour unless licensed to do so by the Conservancy. The only exceptions are works specifically authorised by an Act of Parliament or the renewal of works which were in place on 1st August 1970. Most projects below Mean-High Water Springs are required to apply for a Works License. Approval must be gained before any works commence.

<https://www.conservancy.co.uk/page/planning>

Addendum

Natural England

Natural England is a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. It is responsible for ensuring that England's natural environment, including its land, flora and fauna, freshwater and marine environments, geology, and soils, are protected and improved. It also has a responsibility to help people enjoy, understand, and access the natural environment. Natural England advise that Chichester Harbour Conservancy's "knowledge of the site and its wider landscape setting, together with the aims and objectives of the NL's Statutory Management Plan, will be a valuable contribution to the planning decision."

Summary of Environmental Designations at Chichester Harbour

Worldwide Designation	Ramsar Site	Wetlands are among the most diverse and productive ecosystems. Chichester and Langstone Harbours were recognised as a wetland of international importance when they were designated as a Ramsar Site in 1987, under the Ramsar Convention.
Nationally Important Designations	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	An Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty - (now National Landscape (NL)) - is a landscape which is considered so precious that it is protected for the nation. The criteria for designating a NL include valuable wildlife, habitats, geology, and heritage, as well as scenic views. Chichester Harbour was designated as an AONB - (now National Landscape (NL)) - in 1964.
	Bass Nursery Area	A Bass Nursery Area is a place that is recognised as a haven for small school bass. Fishing for bass, or fishing for any fish using sand-eels as bait, by any fishing boat within any part of the Harbour as defined, is prohibited between 30th April and 1st November each year. Chichester Harbour was designated a Bass Nursery Area in 1990.
	Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Chichester Harbour was designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest in 1970 because it was of special interest by virtue of its fauna, flora, geological or physiographical / geomorphological features.
	Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	A Special Area of Conservation is a site designated under the Habitats Directive. These sites, together with Special Protection Areas, are called Natura sites and they are internationally important for threatened habitats and species. Solent Maritime SAC was designated in 1994.
	Special Protection Area (SPA)	A Special Protection Area is a site designated under the Birds Directive. Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA was designated in 1979.
	Water Framework Directive	This aims for good water quality and covers groundwater, surface water (rivers, canals, lakes, reservoirs, estuaries, other brackish waters, and coastal waters) out to one nautical mile from shore as well as wetlands. The Directive, which came into effect in 2000, gives shellfish harvesting waters and bathing waters special protection.
Locally Important Designations	Conservation Area	Conservation Areas protect special architectural and historical places of interest. There are ten Conservation Areas in and around Chichester Harbour.
	Dark Sky Discovery Site	Three Dark Sky Discovery Sites were defined in Chichester Harbour in 2017. They are particularly good sites for stargazing.
	Local Nature Reserve	Local Nature Reserves are particularly appropriate for educational, research or public information purposes. There are five Local Nature Reserves in Chichester Harbour.
	Local Wildlife Site	Local Wildlife Sites in West Sussex feature important habitats that complement Local Nature Reserves and the Site of Special Scientific Interest. They are the equivalent of a Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Hampshire. There are 16 Local Wildlife Sites in Chichester Harbour.
	Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)	Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Hampshire feature important habitats that complement Local Nature Reserves and the Site of Special Scientific Interest. They are the equivalent of Local Wildlife Sites in West Sussex. There are 25 SINC in Chichester Harbour.