

5 June 2026

Havant Borough Council

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APP/23/00488 - Land East Of, College Road, Purbrook, Waterloooville - Application for mixed use residential development comprising 628 dwellings, community centre, allotments, public open space including play areas, new junction to College Road, related internal access road, footways and cycleways, pumping station and drainage basins.

Plantlife is the global conservation charity working to enhance, protect, restore and celebrate the wild plants and fungi that are essential to all life on earth. Plantlife owns 24 nature reserves covering nearly 4,500 acres across England, Scotland, Wales and the Isle of Man. It carries out conservation and outreach work on its own land and in partnership with many others. Plantlife advises landowners and publishes best practice guidance. It carries out research and gathers data to inform government policy.

This application has been brought to our attention by a concerned local resident [REDACTED] of this site, who has evidence of the important flora of this parcel of land. This [REDACTED] resident has photographic evidence of Green-winged orchid (*Anacamptis Morio*) growing on the site. You will be aware that this species is Near Threatened on the GB Red List. It is '*a good indicator of unimproved grassland (and often associated with ancient ridge and furrow)*' (Botanical Society of Britain & Ireland¹).

The EcIA identifies Vulnerable Fly orchid (*Ophrys Insectifera*) and Near Threatened Autumn lady's-tresses (*Spiranthes Spralis*) species adjacent to the site. Coupled with the resident's findings, Plantlife questions the assessment that the site is 'semi-improved neutral grassland'. We believe the presence of these species suggests that the site is likely to be unimproved species-rich grassland.

In addition, we concur with the Woodland Trust's objection due to the 'loss of veteran trees', along with concern for the Ancient Wood adjacent to the northern boundary. We also agree with Natural England's concerns for the wider area and

¹ <https://bsbi.org/taxa/2cd4p9h.6y71f0/anacamptis-morio>

possible effects to the extensive protected sites (SSSI, SPA, SAC, SINC), particularly with the expected increase in nitrogen levels (up by 7772.72kg/Tn/yr).

We trust that our concerns will be taken into account when considering this proposal, and that a re-survey and assessment of the habitat type and value should be conducted.

Yours sincerely,