

Ecological Mitigation, Compensation and Enhancement Measures

Phase 4 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 4 (the Southern Access Road), 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 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 proposed amendments to the main embankment, control house, culvert and valve tower.

In 2025, Non-Material Amendments to the Section 73 and Phase 3 Reserved Matters permissions were approved to revise the embankment slope angles of the western embankment and transition zone, a portion of which runs parallel to the SAR. These applications were supported by a Statement of Conformity with the Environmental Statement (doc ref. HTR-RHD-P3-ZZ-RP-Z-0001) which found that the changes did not give rise to any

new or materially different effects to those reported in the 2020 ES or the ES Addendum (2024).

2 Ecological Background

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 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; and
- the Biodiversity Mitigation and Compensation Strategy (doc ref. HTR-ATK-ZZ-ZZ-RP-Y-0001).

3 Phase 4 Reserved Matters Design

Two vehicular access points to the reservoir will be provided as part of the Scheme, via the north, off the B2149 which will be signed and designated as the main access point, and via the south off Swanmore Road public highway, serving as a secondary, local access point.

The Southern Access Road (SAR) (Phase 4 of the Scheme) will provide vehicular access to the Havant Thicket Reservoir from Swanmore Road and will be owned and operated by Portsmouth Water.

The following landscape drawings have been prepared by Future Water for the Phase 4 Reserved Matters application:

- HTR-GHD-P4-SA-DR-T-0001-P04 - Southern Access Road Reserved Matters Application Boundary
- HTR-GHD-P4-SA-DR-T-0002-P06 - Southern Access Road Landscape Hardworks and Softworks - Sheet 1 of 3
- HTR-GHD-P4-SA-DR-T-0003-P06 - Southern Access Road Landscape Hardworks and Softworks - Sheet 2 of 3
- HTR-GHD-P4-SA-DR-T-0004-P06 - Southern Access Road Landscape Hardworks and Softworks - Sheet 3 of 3
- HTR-GHD-P4-SA-DR-T-0005-P06 - Southern Access Road Landscape Cross Sections A-A' TO C-C'
- HTR-GHD-P4-SA-DR-T-0006-P04 - Southern Access Road Dormouse Mitigation Landscape Cross Section
- HTR-GHD-P4-SA-DR-T-0007-P04 - Southern Access Road Existing Location Plan
- HTR-GHD-P4-SA-DR-T-0008-P04 - Southern Access Road Site Proposals Plan
- HTR-GHD-P4-SA-DR-T-0009-P04 - Southern Access Road Bridleway Crossings
- HTR-GHD-P4-SA-DR-T-0010-P04 - Southern Access Road Landscape Sketch Gated Access/ Fencing
- HTR-GHD-P4-SA-DR-T-0011-P04 - Southern Access Road Public Access
- HTR-GHD-P4-SA-DR-T-0012-P03 - Southern Access Road Tree Protection.

The SAR is designed as a dual lane road from the junction of Swanmore Road then narrowing to a single carriageway 3.65m wide road with a bituminous pavement construction, with passing bays located at intervals along its length. Surface water run-off from the SAR will be directed towards the 3m wide margin to the east of the carriageway, where the run-off will be collected via a filter drain.

A separate maintenance track surfaced with compacted stone runs to the east of the SAR along the western edge of the main reservoir embankment. The maintenance track will be used by both Portsmouth Water operations teams and pedestrians, horses, and cyclists accessing the Havant Thicket Reservoir.

Bridleway route 120 will be diverted along the maintenance track. Two bridleway crossing points (one permissive) have been incorporated in the SAR design which will link back to existing Bridleway no. 121 in woodland to the west of the SAR, outside the main reservoir site boundary. The bridleway crossings will also comprise of compacted stone/ gravel, with no dig construction utilised within root protection areas as shown on drawing no. HTR-GHD-P4-SA-DR-T-0012.

In accordance with Condition 20, there will be no street lighting along the SAR.

4 Ecological Mitigation Measures

The design of the SAR incorporates habitat creation to enhance existing features and improve biodiversity within the road footprint, as follows:

- Native scrub planting, comprising common hazel, common hawthorn, common holly, common privet, common honeysuckle and common buckthorn
- 1.2m high native hedgerow planting between the SAR and maintenance track, comprising common hazel, common hawthorn, common holly, European honeysuckle and dog rose
- Wildflower/ grass seeding comprising on the embankments and shallow scrapes
- Native woodland canopy/ specimens trees together with wildflower, grass seed and shrub mixes in the southern part of the Scheme for dormouse mitigation.

Shallow scrapes will be created at intervals to the west of the SAR with wildflower mixes to provide varied habitat.

Scrub edge creation along the western side of the SAR will provide a visual/ landscape buffer between the reservoir and recreational access routes within the retained woodland to the west of the SAR.

4.1 Hazel Dormouse Mitigation

Hazel dormouse has been recorded at the Havant Thicket Reservoir site and within the western habitat corridor where the SAR is located. As such, mitigation measures are required to minimise potential impacts on this species.

Mitigation for hazel dormouse on the SAR is shown on drawing no. HTR-GHD-P4-SA-DR-T-0006.

The hazel dormouse mitigation proposed in the southern section of the SAR will include downy birch, common maple and low level scrub for nesting materials to maintain the successful breeding of hazel dormouse.

A wide buffer of scrub/ tall herb habitat will be maintained along western side of the SAR.

A 'pinch-point' will be created on either side of the SAR with the planting of standard trees (field maple/ birch). The pinch-point will create touching tree canopies to encourage the movement of hazel dormouse over the SAR. Low scrub will also be provided for the movement of hazel dormouse across open ground.

Enhancement of the native planting at this location will also create visual barrier between the reservoir site and the footpaths/ recreational access paths within Havant Thicket woodland.

No kerbs or gully pots are included in the design of the SAR at the pinch-point to reduce potential impacts on hazel dormouse.

A hazel dormouse mitigation licence has been granted for the main reservoir works site under licence number: 2020-50257-EPS-AD2-3. All construction works on the SAR will be undertaken in accordance with the hazel dormouse licence conditions.

4.2 Ecological Clerk of Works

An Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) will be present on site to undertake pre-construction checks within the Phase 4 working areas, as required by the Record of Environmental Actions and Commitments (REAC) of the published Environmental Statement (ES) (Atkins, 2020) (refer to Section 7).

The ECoW will also be involved in relevant pre-start site meetings/toolbox talks to ensure that the various provisions of the ecological method statements and protected species licences are met from the outset of construction and adhered to throughout the period of the works.

In the event that hazel dormouse or other protected species are encountered, works within the vicinity of where the sighting occurred shall cease until the ECoW is consulted and has advised on an appropriate course of action.

4.3 Protection of Trees to be Retained

All existing vegetation to be retained in line with the recommendations of BS 5837 wherever possible. In accordance with the Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Tree Protection Plan (doc ref. HTR-RHD-ZZ-XX-RP-Z-0001) approved pursuant to Condition 27, no additional trees will be removed and tree protection fencing will be as set out as approved and retained throughout construction of the SAR, in accordance with the REAC of the published Environmental Statement (ES) (Atkins, 2020) (refer to Section 7).

Where proposed bridleway crossings traverse the root protection areas of trees, a no-dig surface at/above ground level will be used and the existing ground level left undisturbed.

An Arboricultural Supervisor will inspect tree protection measures prior to the commencement of construction activities.

In advance of construction works commencing, all site personnel, including sub-contractors, will be advised of tree protection requirements as part of pre-start site meetings/toolbox talks.

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.

6 Monitoring During Construction

The Main Reservoir Works CEMP (doc ref. HTR-RHD-P2-RE-PL-Z-0018) and its associated management plans describe 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 4 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.
B6	CH9	To protect areas of SINCs and ancient woodland outside the working areas from accidental incursion	Install protective fencing (high visibility or HERAS) at the edge of the working area, including protecting all retained woodland, scrub and grassland areas and a 15m buffer zone around all ancient woodlands where practicable, and with expert arboricultural advice where work is required within 15m, and maintain throughout construction.		Integrity of adjacent areas to be monitored on weekly basis by ECoW. Updates to be included in quarterly ECoW progress report to LPA.	C	Initial: FW Date: Ongoing Protective fencing installed in accordance with the Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Tree Protection Plan (doc no. HTR-RHD-ZZ-XX-RP-Z-0001).
B14	CH9	Compensate for habitat losses	Design new habitats during detailed design, including detailed design of wetlands that maximises retention of ancient woodland areas for conversion to wet woodland	Stakeholder comments will be obtained from LPA, Environment Agency and	Agreement of detailed Biodiversity Mitigation and Compensation Strategy by LPA. Agreement of detailed wetland design by LPA.	P, C	Initial: Portsmouth Water Date: Ongoing Refer to the Biodiversity Mitigation and Compensation Strategy (doc no. HTR-ATK-ZZ-ZZ-RP-Y-0001).

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
			supporting native tree species. Create new wetland in accordance with design. Create species-rich grassland on the outer embankment of the reservoir. Plant new scrub and enhance retained hedgerows.	Natural England.	Quarterly ECoW progress reports to be provided to LPA during construction.		
B24	CH9	Protection of dormice and compensation for habitat loss	Vegetation clearance and tree felling methods to minimise risks to individual dormice will be followed as set out in the dormouse licence method statement. This will set out timing and methods of working. The licence will also be followed in terms of compensatory measures, including habitat creation, habitat enhancement and erection of dormouse nest boxes.	Licence to be obtained from Natural England prior to felling of any roost trees	Work to be undertaken in accordance with licence. Quarterly ECoW progress reports to be provided to LPA during construction.	P, C	Initial: FW Date: Ongoing Quarterly ECoW progress reports are submitted to the LPAs.
B28	CH9	Protection of nesting birds	Precautionary pre-clearance survey will be undertaken at areas of suitable habitat if clearance is required in the nesting season (typically March to August). Vegetation		Quarterly ECoW progress reports to be provided to LPA during construction.	P, C	Initial: FW Date: Ongoing Quarterly ECoW progress reports are submitted to the LPA.

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
			clearance in these areas will follow Precautionary Method of Working.				Refer to the Ground Nesting Birds Method Statement (HTR-RHD-P2-RE-EN-Z-0006).
B30	CH9	Protection of reptiles	Retained vegetation will be protected for use as receptor sites. Clearance of suitable habitat will follow a Precautionary Method of Works. This is likely to include a combination of translocation and displacement of animals into enhanced adjacent retained habitat. The PMW will set out the season and method of clearance.		Quarterly ECoW progress reports to be provided to LPA during construction.		Initial: FW Date: Ongoing Precautionary Methods of Work are being adhered to by the ECoW. Quarterly ECoW progress reports are submitted to the LPAs.
LV2	CH11	Limit damage to existing trees, shrubs, hedges and other significant vegetation to be retained.	The layout and construction of site compounds, soil storage areas, haul routes and any other construction site requirements to be designed and planned to ensure minimal impact on existing vegetation to be retained. Allow appropriate clearance from the edge of retained vegetation to minimise the requirements for cutting back or tree surgery. Requirements of which should be agreed		Mitigation measures to be included in the CEMP.	P, C	Initial: FW Date: Ongoing Refer to the Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Tree Protection Plan (doc no. HTR-RHD-ZZ-XX-RP-Z-0001).

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
			with an Arboriculturist or ECoW.				
LV3	CH11	Limit damage to existing vegetation and grassland areas	A working area will be defined and agreed before construction commences. The area is to be marked on site by fencing with agreed access points. No works, vehicular access or storage will be permitted outside of the agreed working area. The working area to be agreed and monitored by the ECoW.		Mitigation measures to be included in the CEMP. Working area to be agreed preconstruction and monitored on site by the ECoW in the construction phase.	P, C	Initial: FW Date: Ongoing Mitigation measures are included in the Ecological Management Plan (doc no. HTR-RHD-ZZ-ZZ-PL-Z-0001). Construction working areas are monitored on site by the ECoW.
LV4	CH11	Limit damage to existing trees, shrubs, hedges and other	No vegetation or trees other than those indicated on the site clearance plans, should be removed or pruned with		Mitigation measures to be included in the CEMP.	P, C	Initial: FW Date: Ongoing

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
		significant vegetation to be retained.	the prior agreement with the ECoW.				Refer to the Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Tree Protection Plan (doc no. HTR-RHD-ZZ-XX-RP-Z-0001).