



Havant Thicket Reservoir

Ecological Mitigation, Compensation and Enhancement Measures

Phase 6 Reserved Matters - Discharge of Planning Condition 36

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1 Introduction and Background to the Scheme

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 6 (Forestry England Track and Culverts), 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.*

1.1 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.

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).

Phase 6 lies within the Havant Thicket Woodland Management Area of the LEMP. The habitat creation and enhancement measures within the Havant Thicket Woodland Management Area include the veteranisation of retained trees, pond enhancements, headwater stream restoration, conifer clear fell and replanting, birch clearings/ replanting, ride management, translocations of dead wood and the creation of forest glades. The measures within this Management Area will be delivered over a five year work programme..

3 Phase 6 Reserved Matters Design

An existing unsurfaced track runs in an east-west direction within the southernmost boundary of Havant Thicket Woodland, to the north of the main reservoir site. The track is used by Forestry England in order to manage woodland within Havant Thicket.

The existing track will be impacted in two locations (the Western Area and Eastern Area) by the top water level in the reservoir and wetland. As such, the existing track has been re-designed in the Western Area and Eastern Area to maintain unimpeded vehicle and permissive pedestrian passage once the reservoir is operational.

Both the Western Area and Eastern Area tracks will be raised on a clay or granular embankment to maintain unimpeded vehicle access. One culvert will manage water passage beneath the Western Area embankment, whilst 3 culverts will manage water passage beneath the Eastern Area embankment. A safety barrier and stockproof fencing will be provided alongside the improved track sections which is sympathetic to the area's rural character and will prevent dogs accessing the wetland areas.

The following drawings have been prepared by Future Water for the Phase 6 Reserved Matters application:

- HTR-FUW-P6-RP-DR-T-3188 - Phase 6 FE Track Proposals Plan;
- HTR-FUW-P6-RP-DR-T-3189 - Phase 6 FE Track Red Line Boundary;
- HTR-FUW-P6-RP-DR-T-3190 - Phase 6 - FE Track West Area Detail;
- HTR-FUW-P6-RP-DR-T-3191 - Phase 6 - FE Track East Area Detail;
- HTR-FUW-P6-RP-DR-T-3192 - Phase 6 - FE Track Safety Barrier and Fencing Detail;
- HTR-FUW-P6-RP-DR-T-3193 - Phase 6 - FE Track West Area Landscape General Arrangement;
- HTR-FUW-P6-RP-DR-T-3194 - Phase 6 - FE Track - East Area Landscape General Arrangement; and

- HTR-FUW-P6-RP-DR-T-3195 - Phase 6 - FE Track Headwall and Culvert Detail.

The track raising was considered as part of the Hybrid / Section 73 applications including the inherent culverting to enable water to flow from the headwater streams into the wetlands and the reservoir. The area of the track raising and the culverts is part of the area that will be inundated at the top water level of the wetland / reservoir and therefore there is no additional loss or culverting of watercourses as a result of the Phase 6 RMA that was not considered as part of the Hybrid / Section 73 applications for Havant Thicket Reservoir. Therefore, the extensive watercourse improvements as part of the wider Havant Thicket Reservoir development already mitigate for these elements of culverting.

3.1 Arboricultural and Silvicultural Appraisal & Tree Protection Statement

In addition to the above drawings, an Arboricultural and Silvicultural Appraisal & Tree Protection Statement (doc ref. HTR-RHD-P6-RP-RP-T-0003) has been prepared. The arboricultural appraisal assesses the works required for the Phase 6 Forestry England Track and Culverts.

The Arboricultural and Silvicultural Appraisal confirms that the conclusions of the approved Arboricultural Impact Assessment (doc ref. HTR-RHD-ZZ-XX-RP-Z-0001) remain valid and that the proposed track-raising works can be undertaken with a low overall arboricultural and silvicultural impact, subject to implementation of the revised Tree Protection Plan and Arboricultural Method Statement.

Detailed surveys and design refinements have enabled a greater level of tree retention than originally anticipated, including retention of a mature oak in the western section, coppicing to maintain screening and habitat connectivity, and veteranisation of selected trees for biodiversity benefit. In the eastern section, although some tree losses are required to accommodate the embankment, and a proportion of retained trees are expected to decline through future waterlogging, this will contribute to the creation of valuable standing deadwood habitat.

Overall, the revised proposals reduce the anticipated canopy loss in the Eastern Area by approximately 20% compared with original estimates and are not considered to result in significant adverse effects on woodland character, landscape amenity, or ecological function.

4 Ecological Mitigation Measures

Phase 6 lies within the Havant Thicket Woodland Management Area of the LEMP. The measures within this Management Area (listed in Section 2) will be delivered over a five-year work programme.

The design of Phase 6 incorporates new culverts to ensure surface water run-off from ephemeral streams in Havant Thicket woodland continue to flow southwards into the main reservoir. The culverts will reduce flooding which is an objective of the Headwater Stream Restoration in the LEMP.

4.1 Landscape planting

Landscape planting on the Western Area and Eastern Area embankment slopes will comprise a wetlands and water's edge planting mix, as shown on the Landscape General Arrangement

drawings HTR-FUW-P6-RP-DR-T-3193 and HTR-FUW-P6-RP-DR-T-3194. The planting mix will complement the planting provided for the wetlands area as part of the approved Phase 2 Reserved Matters Design.

4.2 Trees

Existing vegetation will be retained in accordance with the Arboricultural and Silvicultural Appraisal & Tree Protection Statement (doc ref. HTR-RHD-P6-RP-RP-T-0003). Retained trees and woodland areas will be protected during construction through the implementation of the revised Tree Protection Plan and Arboricultural Method Statement.

Veteranisation works will be undertaken on selected retained trees to create long-term habitat features by reducing tree height and introducing naturalistic fracture points through techniques such as coronet cuts, enhancing biodiversity value while maintaining a safe environment adjacent to the Forestry England track.

In accordance with plans in the Tree Protection Statement, protective braced Heras fencing will be erected around designated construction exclusion zones prior to the commencement of works and will remain in place throughout the construction period to prevent damage to retained trees and their root protection areas. Where works are undertaken in close proximity to retained trees, including coppiced and veteranised specimens, additional care will be taken to avoid root damage, soil compaction and accidental harm during earthworks, ensuring that woodland screening, landscape character and ecological value are retained as far as practicable.

An arboricultural supervisor will oversee key stages of the works, inspect tree protection measures and provide advice where required.

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

4.3 Ecological Clerk of Works

An Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) will be present on site to undertake pre-construction checks within the Phase 6 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) and now part of the approved CEMP (doc ref. HTR-RHD-P2-RE-PL-Z-0018).

Pre-construction checks would include, but not be limited to:

- Checks for bat roosts prior to removal of trees or other suitable roost features;
- Checks for hazel dormouse nests;
- Checks for evidence of reptiles and amphibians; and
- Checks for bird nests prior to the removal of vegetation.

The ECoW will also be involved in relevant pre-start site meetings/ Tool-box talks to ensure that the various provisions of the ecological method statements and any 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, bats 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.

The ECoW will be suitably qualified and experienced to oversee ecological compliance during works undertaken under the project's European Protected Species (EPS) licences: 2025-70547-EPS-MIT (Great Crested Newt), 2020-50257-EPS-AD2-4 (Hazel Dormouse) and 2020-50625-EPS-AD2-6 (Bats). Where licensable activities are required, these will be undertaken or directly supervised by appropriately authorised personnel in accordance with the relevant licence conditions.

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 to manage the environmental effects of construction activities.

The CEMP is a 'live' document which is 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 6 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 SINC's 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 Phase 6 Arboricultural and Silvicultural Appraisal & Tree Protection Statement (doc ref. HTR-RHD-P6-RP-RP-T-0003).
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	Stakeholder comments will be obtained from LPA, Environment	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

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
			<p>conversion to wet woodland supporting native tree species.</p> <p>Create new wetland in accordance with design.</p> <p>Create species-rich grassland on the outer embankment of the reservoir.</p> <p>Plant new scrub and enhance retained hedgerows.</p>	Agency and Natural England.	Quarterly ECoW progress reports to be provided to LPA during construction.		Compensation Strategy (doc no. HTR-ATK-ZZ-ZZ-RP-Y-0001).
B22	CH9	Protection of bats and compensation for loss of roosting opportunities	<p>Felling methods to minimise risks to individual bats will be followed as set out in the bat licence method statement (for roost trees) and (for non-roost trees) a Precautionary Method of Working. These will set out timing and methods of working.</p> <p>Inclusive of any bat boxes required under the licence, at least one bat box will be erected for each tree with high or moderate bat potential that is felled.</p>	Licence to be obtained from Natural England prior to felling of any roost trees	<p>Work to be undertaken in accordance with licence.</p> <p>Quarterly ECoW progress reports to be provided to LPA during construction.</p>	P, C	<p>Initial: FW</p> <p>Date: Ongoing</p> <p>Tree felling works are undertaken in accordance with EPS licences.</p> <p>Quarterly ECoW progress reports are submitted to the LPAs.</p>
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		Quarterly ECoW progress reports to be provided to LPA during construction.	P, C	<p>Initial: FW</p> <p>Date: Ongoing</p>

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
			March to August). Vegetation clearance in these areas will follow Precautionary Method of Working.				Quarterly ECoW progress reports are submitted to the LPA. 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.
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		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).

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
			working area to be agreed and monitored by the ECoW.				Construction working areas are monitored on site by the ECoW.
LV4	CH11	Limit damage to existing trees, shrubs, hedges and other significant vegetation to be retained.	No vegetation or trees other than those indicated on the site clearance plans, should be removed or pruned with the prior agreement with the ECoW.		Mitigation measures to be included in the CEMP.	P, C	Initial: FW Date: Ongoing Refer to the Phase 6 Arboricultural and Silvicultural Appraisal & Tree Protection Statement (doc ref.HTR-RHD-P6-RP-RP-T-0003).