



Havant Thicket Reservoir

Statement of Conformity with the Environmental Statement

Phase 6 – Forestry England Track Raising

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1 Introduction

Future Water commissioned Haskoning to prepare a Statement of Conformity with the Environmental Statement (ES) in support of the Phase 6 Reserved Matters application for the Havant Thicket Reservoir Scheme. Phase 6 of the Reserved Matters relates to the Forestry England Track and Culverts.

The Havant Thicket Reservoir Scheme was granted planning permission subject to conditions in October 2021, by Havant Borough Council and East Hampshire District Council, Planning 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 ES (Havant Thicket Reservoir Project, Atkins, 2020) which reported the findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

Separate Section 73 applications submitted to Havant Borough Council and East Hampshire District Council in 2024 proposed 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.

This Statement of Conformity with the ES considers whether the proposed detailed design for the Forestry England Track and Culverts is likely to give rise to any new or materially different effects to those identified in the 2020 ES and 2024 ES Addendum.

This work has involved the following tasks:

- Review of the environmental documents submitted with the planning application for the Consented Scheme, comprising the 2020 ES and 2024 ES which assessed the potential environmental effects of the Consented Scheme;
- Review of the design prepared for the Phase 6 Reserved Matters application;
- Consider the implications of the Scheme and the likelihood for the findings of the 2020 ES and 2024 ES to be altered either positively or negatively, or neutrally (no change to positive or adverse impacts).

2 Description of the Phase 6 Reserved Matters

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 permanent water level in the main reservoir. As such, the existing track has been re-designed in the Western Area and Eastern Area to maintain unimpeded vehicle passage once the main 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.

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.

2.1 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, extensive 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 by approximately 20% in the Eastern Area compared with original estimates and are not considered to result in significant adverse effects on woodland character, landscape amenity, or ecological function.

3 Environmental Appraisal

The ES submitted in 2020 for the hybrid planning application assessed the potential for significant effects arising from the Scheme with respect to: air quality, historic environment, biodiversity, ground conditions, landscape and visual, noise and vibration, traffic and transport, material resources and waste, water (flows, quality and groundwater) climate, climate change vulnerability, population and human health, cumulative effects and vulnerability to major accidents and disasters.

The ES Addendum (2024) described the proposed changes to the Scheme as part of the Section 73 applications in 2024 and presented an assessment of any new or different significant effects that could result from these changes. The Vulnerability to Major Accidents and Disasters topic was scoped out of further assessment, as the changes to the Scheme would not result in any new, or materially different significant effects.

The 2024 ES Addendum confirmed that the impact of the design revisions, when taking account of mitigation and compensatory measures proposed as part of the original Scheme and the Section 73 planning application, concluded that there were no new or additional significant effects.

3.1 Environmental Appraisal of Phase 6 Reserved Matters

The topics examined in the 2020 ES and the 2024 ES Addendum have been appraised in order to determine whether the proposed detailed design for Phase 6 is likely to give rise to any new or materially different effects.

The environmental topics reviewed is presented in Table 1.

Table 1 - Summary of environmental topics reviewed for Phase 6 Reserved Matters

2020 ES / 2024 ES Addendum Topic	Environmental Appraisal Summary
Air quality	<p>2020 ES</p> <p>The 2020 ES did not identify any significant adverse air quality effects during construction or operation.</p> <p>2024 ES Addendum</p> <p>The air quality effects arising from construction dust and construction road traffic emissions was no greater than those predicted in the 2020 ES. There was no change to the planned operation of the Scheme and the assessment of effects presented in the 2020 ES remained unchanged.</p> <p>A Dust Management Plan has been prepared for the Scheme which describes measures to be adopted to limit and control emissions to air during construction. All relevant committed mitigation can continue to be applied to control potential residual effects from dust to non-significant levels.</p> <p>As such, no change to the significance of effects were identified from air emissions and dust sources from that described in the 2020 ES.</p> <p>Phase 6 Reserved Matters application</p> <p>The design presented in the Reserved Matters application for Phase 6 is consistent with the assessments undertaken in the 2020 ES and 2024 ES Addendum and as such, there will be no change to the significance of effects previously reported.</p> <p>All relevant committed mitigation can continue to be applied to control potential residual effects from dust to non-significant levels.</p>

2020 ES / 2024 ES Addendum Topic	Environmental Appraisal Summary
Historic environment	<p>2020 ES</p> <p>The 2020 ES reported that two heritage assets, comprising the Grade II* Leigh Park Registered Park and Garden, and the Sir George Staunton Conservation Area, would experience adverse effects that would be significant.</p> <p>2024 ES Addendum</p> <p>Any direct archaeological impacts arising from ongoing and future construction activities did not materially change from those assessed in the 2020 ES.</p> <p>Overall, the design changes did not result in any change to the significance of effects on heritage assets reported in the 2020 ES.</p> <p>Phase 6 Reserved Matters application</p> <p>The proposals would not materially change the construction phase footprint, operations, nor associated visual impacts upon the setting of the Staunton Country Park or the Sir George Staunton Conservation Area.</p> <p>The location of Phase 6, in the northern part of the Havant Thicket Reservoir Scheme, has not changed from that presented in the 2020 ES and 2024 ES Addendum.</p> <p>Phase 6 will be screened by existing vegetation within Havant Thicket and the new wetlands proposed in main reservoir.</p> <p>As such, the design presented in the Reserved Matters application for Phase 6 is consistent with the assessments undertaken in the 2020 ES and 2024 ES Addendum and as such, there will be no change to the significance of effects previously reported.</p>
Ground conditions	<p>2020 ES</p> <p>The 2020 ES did not identify any significant adverse effects on ground conditions during construction with appropriate mitigation measures in place.</p> <p>2024 ES Addendum</p> <p>The significance of effects on ground conditions remained unchanged from those presented in the 2020 ES.</p> <p>All relevant committed mitigation will continue to be applied to control potential residual effects to non-significant levels in accordance with the Record of Environmental Actions and Commitments (REAC) presented in the CEMP.</p> <p>A Materials Management Plan has been prepared for the construction phase to manage the site won materials and demonstrate that it is being appropriately used on site within the main reservoir works. As such, there is no change to the significance of effects on ground conditions from that described in the 2020 ES.</p> <p>Phase 6 Reserved Matters application</p> <p>The design presented in the Reserved Matters application for Phase 6 is consistent with the assessments undertaken in the 2020 ES and 2024</p>

2020 ES / 2024 ES Addendum Topic	Environmental Appraisal Summary
	ES Addendum and as such, there will be no change to the significance of effects previously reported.
Noise and vibration	<p>2020 ES</p> <p>The 2020 ES reported that noise and vibration from construction works would not result in adverse effects that would be significant during daytime hours. During operation, no adverse effects were identified that would be significant on receptors.</p> <p>2024 ES Addendum</p> <p>During construction, noise and vibration would not result in adverse effects that would be significant during daytime hours with the implementation of mitigation measures. As such, the assessment presented in the 2020 ES remained unchanged.</p> <p>A Noise and Vibration Management Plan (doc no. HTR-RHD-P2-RE-PL-W-0017) sets out the mitigation measures to be adopted during construction.</p> <p>During operation, the assessment of noise and vibration effects remained unchanged from the 2020 ES and there would be no significant adverse effects.</p> <p>Phase 6 Reserved Matters application</p> <p>The design presented in the Reserved Matters application for Phase 6 is consistent with the assessments undertaken in the 2020 ES and 2024 ES Addendum and as such, there will be no change to the significance of effects previously reported.</p>
Biodiversity	<p>2020 ES</p> <p>The 2020 ES reported that the Scheme would result in residual adverse effects that would be significant as a result of the direct loss of ancient woodland, habitat within Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation, priority habitat and watercourses.</p> <p>2024 ES Addendum</p> <p>The 2024 ES reported that a substantial area of habitat had already been cleared under the planning permission for the 2020 approved Scheme. No further land take or direct impact on ecological receptors was concluded with the proposed changes to the Scheme.</p> <p>Phase 6 Reserved Matters application</p> <p>An Ecological Mitigation, Compensation and Enhancement Measures Report (doc no. HTR-RHD-P6-FE-RP-Z-0001) has been prepared which provides details of the ecological mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures for Phase 6. The Report for Phase 6 is being submitted for local planning authority approval through a separate application to discharge planning condition 36.</p> <p>Landscape planting on the Western Area and Eastern Area embankment slopes will comprise a wetlands and water's edge planting mix. The planting mix will complement the planting provided for the wetlands area as part of the Phase 2 RM application.</p>
Landscape and visual	2020 ES

2020 ES / 2024 ES Addendum Topic	Environmental Appraisal Summary
	<p>During construction, significant adverse effects on landscape and visual amenity were reported in the 2020 ES from the Sir George Staunton Conservation Area, the Grade II* Leigh Park Registered Park and Garden, adjacent Public Rights of Way and from residential areas.</p> <p>Low adverse impacts were predicted from works within Havant Thicket woodland, as the works utilise an existing forestry track which would minimise the clearance of vegetation and/ or tree felling.</p> <p>2024 ES Addendum</p> <p>The 2024 ES Addendum reported that there would be no change to the landscape effects during construction (as presented in the 2020 ES), although the construction period of the main reservoir works would be extended for two years, which would increase the duration of the effects. There would also be no change to visual effects experienced during construction, except for the extension of the construction period by two years for the main reservoir works.</p> <p>Adherence to the LEMP and future maintenance of landscape planting is a commitment made in the 2020 ES to mitigate the landscape and visual effects of the Scheme.</p> <p>Phase 6 Reserved Matters application</p> <p>The proposed track raising in both areas utilises the alignment of the existing Forestry England track and will therefore result in limited and localised changes to the landscape.</p> <p>In the Western Area, the design allows for greater tree retention than originally anticipated, including coppicing and retention of selected trees to maintain woodland character, visual screening and habitat connectivity. In the Eastern Area, whilst some tree removal is necessary to facilitate construction of the embankment, the design retains substantial woodland cover and includes measures to retain and veteranise selected trees for habitat and landscape value.</p> <p>The design presented in the Reserved Matters application for Phase 6 is consistent with the assessments undertaken in the 2020 ES and 2024 ES Addendum and will not result in any new or materially different significant landscape or visual effects.</p>
Population and human health	<p>2020 ES</p> <p>The 2020 ES identified impacts on human health could arise during construction from the temporary reduction in access to open space which would be mitigated by maintaining safe access for the public, where possible.</p> <p>2024 ES Addendum</p> <p>With the implementation of mitigation, all construction phase residual effects on health determinants will remain unchanged from the 2020 ES.</p> <p>The likely significant effects assessed during operation of the reservoir, as presented in the 2020 ES, will also remain unchanged.</p> <p>A Construction Traffic Management Plan has been prepared which sets out how traffic and site operations will be managed during the main construction works and how construction staff will travel to and from the site.</p>

2020 ES / 2024 ES Addendum Topic	Environmental Appraisal Summary
	<p>The Noise and Vibration Management Plan for the Scheme sets out the mitigation measures which will be adopted during construction.</p> <p>All relevant committed mitigation can continue to be applied as envisaged to control potential residual effects to slight adverse levels. As such, there would no change to the significance of effects reported in the 2020 ES with respect to population and human health.</p> <p>Phase 6 Reserved Matters application</p> <p>Construction work for Phase 6 will follow an existing Forestry England track which will be temporarily closed during construction. As such, temporary diversion signs will be provided to ensure members of the public can continue to use Havant Thicket for informal recreational use.</p> <p>The design presented in the Reserved Matters application for Phase 6 is consistent with the assessments undertaken in the 2020 ES and 2024 ES Addendum and as such, there will be no change to the significance of effects previously reported for population and human health during operation.</p>
Traffic and transport	<p>2020 ES</p> <p>The 2020 ES did not identify any significant adverse effects arising from traffic and transport during construction or operation with mitigation measures in place.</p> <p>2024 ES Addendum</p> <p>There would be no significant change in effects resulting from construction of Phase 6 which will be similar to that presented in the 2020 ES.</p> <p>No changes were proposed to vehicular access during operation. As such, the findings of the traffic and transport assessment in the 2020 ES remain unchanged and there would be no significant adverse effects during the operation phase.</p> <p>Phase 6 Reserved Matters application</p> <p>A Construction Traffic Management Plan has been prepared which sets out how traffic and site operations will be managed during the Phase 6 works and how workers will be travelling to and from site.</p> <p>There will be no change to the significance of effects on traffic and transport, as previously reported in the 2020 ES or 2024 ES Addendum.</p>
Material resources and waste	<p>2020 ES</p> <p>The 2020 ES did not identify any adverse effects that would be significant on the availability of construction materials, or from wastes produced during construction.</p> <p>2024 ES Addendum</p> <p>Materials required to construct Phase 6 will be similar to that presented in the 2020 ES.</p> <p>A Site Waste Management Plan has been developed to manage wastes produced during construction.</p> <p>Phase 6 Reserved Matters application</p>

2020 ES / 2024 ES Addendum Topic	Environmental Appraisal Summary
	<p>The design presented in the Reserved Matters application for Phase 6 is consistent with the assessments undertaken in the 2020 ES and 2024 ES Addendum. As such, there will be no change to the significance of effects previously reported.</p>
Water	<p>2020 ES</p> <p>The 2020 ES reported that there would be residual adverse effects that would be significant on aquatic habitats, habitat connectivity and geomorphology. Compensation and mitigation measures were identified for the impacted water body of Riders Lane Stream.</p> <p>2024 ES Addendum</p> <p>The changes to the Scheme did not alter the findings of the 2020 ES assessment and no additional mitigation will be required as part of the ongoing package of compensation and mitigation measures. The effects on flood risk were also found to be no greater than those predicted in the 2020 ES.</p> <p>During operation, the significance of effects on the water environment remained unchanged from the 2020 ES.</p> <p>Phase 6 Reserved Matters application</p> <p>New culverts will be provided as part of the Phase 6 design to ensure surface water run-off from ephemeral streams in Havant Thicket woodland continue to flow southwards into the main reservoir.</p> <p>A Water Quality Management Plan has been prepared as part of the Main Reservoir Works CEMP which provides details of mitigation measures required to protect the quality of surface and groundwater during construction.</p> <p>As such, there will be no change to the significance of effects previously reported in the 2020 ES or 2024 ES Addendum.</p>
Climate	<p>2020 ES</p> <p>The 2020 ES reported that the Scheme is unlikely to cause significant effects on climate, or significantly affect the UK's ability to meet its emissions reduction targets.</p> <p>2024 ES Addendum</p> <p>The greenhouse gas emissions from changes to the Scheme in 2024, together with the additional assessment of emission sources not considered in the 2020 ES, would result in a 7% increase in construction emissions. However, the increase in emissions is not deemed material and the Scheme is anticipated to make a small contribution to the overall UK emissions. Therefore, the conclusion of the 2020 ES, that the Scheme is deemed unlikely to cause a significant effect on climate change remained unchanged. All relevant committed mitigation can continue to be applied as envisaged in the 2020 ES.</p> <p>The assessment of emissions during operation remained unchanged from the 2020 ES.</p> <p>Phase 6 Reserved Matters application</p> <p>The design presented in the Reserved Matters application for Phase 6 is consistent with the assessments undertaken for the 2020 ES and</p>

2020 ES / 2024 ES Addendum Topic	Environmental Appraisal Summary
	2024 ES Addendum and as such, there will be no change to the significance of effects previously reported.
Vulnerability to climate change	<p>2020 ES</p> <p>The 2020 ES reported that the Scheme includes embedded mitigation to avoid, minimise or reduce potential impacts from changes in climate. No potential climate vulnerability impacts identified would have adverse effects that would be significant with embedded mitigation.</p> <p>2024 ES Addendum</p> <p>During construction, the significant effects assessed in the 2020 ES, such as the likelihood for extreme weather events, remained unchanged with embedded mitigation.</p> <p>The significant effects assessed during operation presented in the 2020 ES also remain unchanged with embedded mitigation.</p> <p>Phase 6 Reserved Matters application</p> <p>The design presented in the Reserved Matters application for Phase 6 is consistent with the assessments undertaken in the 2020 ES and 2024 ES Addendum and as such, there will be no change to the significance of effects previously reported.</p>
Cumulative and In-Combination effects	<p>2020 ES</p> <p>The 2020 ES reported that with mitigation, there would be no adverse cumulative or in-combination effects that would be significant.</p> <p>2024 ES Addendum</p> <p>The 2024 ES concluded that there would be no change to cumulative and in-combination effects arising during construction or operation. All relevant committed mitigation will continue to be applied as envisaged in the 2020 ES. As such, there were no changes to the significance of effects reported in the 2020 ES.</p> <p>Phase 6 Reserved Matters application</p> <p>The design presented in the Reserved Matters application for Phase 6 is consistent with the assessments undertaken in the 2020 ES and 2024 ES Addendum and as such, there will be no change to the significance of effects previously reported.</p>

4 Conclusion

This report has considered whether the proposed detailed design of the Forestry England Track and Culverts for the Phase 6 Reserved Matters application is likely to give rise to any new or materially different significant effects to those identified in the 2020 ES and 2024 ES Addendum.

All committed mitigation can continue to be effectively applied and is sufficient to control the potential impacts of Phase 6 during construction and operation.

This report concludes that the Phase 6 design submitted for Reserved Matters approval does not give rise to any new or materially different effects to those reported in the 2020 ES, or the 2024 ES Addendum.