Havant Borough Council

Heritage Consultation Response

Date – 24/9/26

Officer – Rachael McMurray, Principal Heritage Officer

Application – APP/26/00561

Site Address – Havant Thicket Reservoir Site

Proposal:

Application for approval of all Reserved Matters (siting, scale, external appearance, and landscaping) relating to Phase 6 (Forestry England Track Raising) of the Havant Thicket Reservoir development pursuant to Condition 2 of the S73 consent planning reference APP/24/00312 dated 6th December 2024.

Site / Location

The application site relates to the Havant Thicket Reservoir site, which is located in Havant Thicket, adjacent to Sir George Staunton Country Park and with the Leigh Park Grade II* listed registered park and garden.

Legislation

When assessing the proposal, the following legislation and policy context is taken in consideration.

Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990

Section 16 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 ("1990 Act") requires local planning authorities to have special regard to the desirability of preserving a listed building, its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest when considering whether to grant listed building consent.

Section 66 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 requires planning authorities, when considering whether to grant planning permission for development which affects a listed building or its setting, to have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses.

Section 72 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 requires planning authorities, when considering whether to grant planning permission for development which affects **a Conservation Area,** to have special regard to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character and appearance of that area.

National Planning Policy Framework (revised August 2026)

Chapter 20 of the NPPF relates to the Historic Environment.

Havant Borough Local Plan (Core Strategy 2011 and Allocations Plan 2014)

Policy CS11 – Protecting and Enhancing the Special Environment and Heritage of the Havant Borough

Policy CS16 – High Quality Design

Policy DM20 (Allocations Plan) - Historic Assets

Assessment

The application seeks approval of reserved matters relating to Phase 6 of the approved Havant Thicket Reservoir development, comprising the raising of existing Forestry England tracks and associated culverts required to maintain woodland management access. The principle of the works has already been established through the extant planning permission, with this application relating solely to the detailed siting, scale, appearance and landscaping of the scheme.

Whilst the site does not contain any designated heritage assets, the wider reservoir scheme lies within the setting of heritage assets including the Grade II Registered Park and Garden at Sir George Staunton Country Park. The proposed works are limited in scale and largely follow the alignment of existing forestry tracks. The use of crushed stone surfacing, timber-clad safety barriers and woodland planting is appropriate to the rural and wooded character of the area.

The submitted details demonstrate that the design has sought to maximise tree retention and minimise landscape impacts through coppicing, reduced canopy loss and ecological enhancement measures. Given the modest scale and functional nature of the works, it is considered that the proposals would not result in harm to the significance or setting of nearby heritage assets and are acceptable from a heritage perspective.

Conclusion

The reserved matters submission for Phase 6 (Forestry England Track Raising) is considered acceptable from a heritage perspective. The proposals would preserve the significance and setting of affected and nearby heritage assets, including the Grade II* Registered Park and Garden and the Sir George Staunton CA, and no heritage objection is raised to the approval of the reserved matters relating to siting, scale, appearance and landscaping.

NO OBJECTION