

I am writing to support and endorse the objections submitted by the Parish Council regarding this application.

I share the Parish Council's concerns about the proposed visitor centre being located on a floating pontoon within the wetland conservation area. Placing a major visitor attraction at the heart of a sensitive wildlife habitat appears likely to increase disturbance to birds and other wildlife, while also creating unnecessary operational and maintenance challenges compared with a land-based alternative.

I am also concerned by the proposed external terraces extending over the wetland. These areas are likely to generate increased noise, activity and litter, all of which could adversely affect the quiet character of the reserve and its ecological value.

The proposed bird hide represents a missed opportunity. It appears too small, visually intrusive and restricted in use. A larger, more accessible, and better-designed hide that can be enjoyed by the wider community, including older visitors and those with reduced mobility, would provide far greater public benefit while enhancing engagement with nature.

Additionally, I strongly object to the proposed out-of-hours use of the visitor facilities.

The original reservoir proposals and environmental assessments were based on an assumption that these facilities would not operate at night. Introducing evening restaurant and event use would inevitably increase lighting, noise and vehicle movements, particularly along the Northern Access Road. This risks significant impacts on the site's nocturnal wildlife, including bats, nightjar, woodcock, badgers and glow worms, and undermines the environmental basis on which the original development was approved.

Given the sensitivity of this important wetland site, I respectfully urge the Council to give significant weight to the Parish Council's objections and to require substantial revisions to the proposals.