

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to object to several proposals in the Havant Thicket Reservoir current planning application reference APP/26/00574. I have been a resident of Rowlands Castle for over 27 years and, as a keen amateur naturalist, I have greatly valued the rural environment of the Thicket. Thus, I have a strong personal interest in the quality of the site.

First and foremost, I am very concerned at the proposal that the Visitor Centre and ancillary facilities be permitted to host social events during the hours of darkness. Inevitably, such night-time usage would cause light and noise pollution, to the detriment of the natural environment. Additionally, the associated vehicular and pedestrian intrusions would disrupt the ecological balance of the site, adversely affecting a range of wildlife, especially nocturnal creatures.

I disagree with the siting of the visitor centre on a floating structure, in the proposed location, as this would increase the levels of intrusive disturbance to the wildlife in the vicinity. On paper, the idea might 'look nice', but it would be an unnecessary gimmick causing logistical problems for the supporting workforce.

As a matter of principle, the site should encourage an increased interest in the natural world, and should facilitate the engagement of the general public, including those with mobility problems. The proposed bird hide seems to be inadequate for its stated educational role.

In conclusion, I urge the Council to reject the current proposals.

Sincerely,

