

APP/26/00574: Havant Thicket Reservoir - Visitor Centre, Bird Hide, Hub Building & NW layout.

My comments are submitted on behalf of Hampshire Ornithological Society (HOS) a registered charity since 1979 with in-excess of 2000 members. The Societies main objectives include the recording and study of bird life in Hampshire and the use of these records to encourage and support the conservation of wild birds and their habitats.

As a member of the Environmental Stakeholders group, HOS has provided input and comment on the initial proposals for the Visitor Centre and Educational Bird hide. In general terms, we believe the application recognises the need to avoid bird disturbance but the lack of adequate barriers to stop people and dogs gaining access to the wetland conservation area shoreline and retaining structure islands must be addressed.

We support the concept of an Educational Bird Hide but believe the current design proposals are too small to accommodate a half class of 15 pupils. As such, the area will become overcrowded and noisy which will increase the bird disturbance. Therefore, we believe a larger structure is required. HOS also maintain the design should accommodate elderly or disabled persons who may not be able to reach the hides planned much further away from the carpark on the north side of the reservoir.

George Baker.
Conservation Liaison Officer
Hampshire Ornithological Society (HOS)
13 October 2026