

I would like to add my support to the letter sent by Rowlands Castle Parish Council in respect of the revised planning application concerning Havant Thicket Reservoir (APP-26-00574-HTR-NW-Area_VC-Hide).

I too would like to raise the following concerns with the plans as presented:

1. The proposed material change for the facilities to be used at night when the original proposal assumed no night time use. This will require lighting in the NW corner and vehicles using the Northern Access Road at night. While not obvious in the main application, text within the supporting documents confirms that there is planned 'out of hours use' for a restaurant and events. The original reservoir planning application and environmental impact assessment assumed no nighttime use of the facilities. The visitor centre being used after dark will increase the impact on the nighttime ecology (bats, nightjar, woodcock, badgers and glow worms) due to lighting and vehicle movements.
2. The visitor centre being located on a floating pontoon (island) within the wetland conservation area where it will cause more disturbance to wildlife and be more difficult and expensive to run.
3. Provision of external terraces over the wetland which will increase noise and disturbance to wildlife, as well as litter blow from tables.
4. The bird hide being too small, badly designed and only for education use with no public access. This is a wasted opportunity for the community; it should be larger and dual purpose for all to enjoy when not needed for educational purposes i.e. accessible to young and old and those with reduced mobility.
5. The bird hide design is totally unsuitable and needs to be reworked to be more in tune with the landscape and with low visual impact, as most bird hides are.

Regards

