

Our Ref: 784-A117387

23 February 2021

Ref: APP/A1720/W/20/3252180 & 3252185 Land at Newgate Lane, Fareham

SUBJECT: Note on Winter Bird Mitigation Area Nitrogen Budget

I have prepared this note to provide additional information as requested by the Inspector in respect of Nutrient Neutrality (specifically Nitrogen) and how it applies to the proposed Winter Bird Mitigation Area.

The baseline for the mitigation area is discussed in the Winter Bird Mitigation Strategy (WYG, 2021), included as Appendix F of the Report to Inform Habitats Regulations Assessment Stage 1 and Stage 2 (WYG, 2021). In summary it is located west of Old Street, Stubbington and comprises of two fields; the northern field is horse-grazed with semi-improved grassland, and the southern field is an abandoned arable field with tall ruderal vegetation and grassland, also grazed. The area lies immediately to the east of the Solent and Southampton Water Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site, and the Solent Maritime Special Area of Conservation (SAC). For the purposes of nitrogen balancing, the northern field is assessed as lowland grazing and the southern as open space / no use (a precautionary measure as there has been no recent cropping). Post-development, the whole mitigation area is assessed as open space as there will be no application of artificial fertiliser (as specified in the management specification).

The following tables set out nitrogen balancing calculations in accordance with Natural England guidance¹.

Stage 1 is not applied as the mitigation area does not result in an increase in residential dwellings.

Table 1: Calculating TN Load From Current Land use (Stage 2)

Step	Measurement	Land use	Value	Unit	Explanation
1	Area of existing land	Lowland grazing	1.39	ha	Northern field to be modified Southern field to be modified and boundary habitat retained with no change.
		Open space / no use	3.61		
2	TN leachate value for land use type	Lowland grazing	13.0	Kg/ha/yr	-
		Open space / no use	5.0		
3	TN leachate	Lowland grazing	18.07	Kg/TN/yr	Step 1a x Step 2a
		Open space / no use	18.05		
Total TN Leachate value for current land use: 36.12 Kg/TN/yr					

¹ Natural England, (2020), ADVICE ON ACHIEVING NUTRIENT NEUTRALITY FOR NEW DEVELOPMENT IN THE SOLENT REGION, Version 5 – June 2020, [online] Available at <https://www.push.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Natural-England%E2%80%99s-latest-guidance-on-achieving-nutrient-neutrality-for-new-housing-development-June-2020.pdf>, Accessed February 2021.

Table 2: Calculating TN Load From Future Land Uses (Stage 3)

Step	Measurement	Value	Unit	Explanation
1	New urban land use area	0.00	ha	Area of development that will change to urban land use
2	TN leachate value from new urban area	0.00	Kg/TN/yr	Step 1 x 14.3 Kg/TN/yr
3	New / retained woodland, PoS or SANG	5.00	ha	Area of development that will be woodland, PoS or SANG
4	TN leachate value from woodland / Pos / SANG area	25.00	Kg/TN/yr	Step 3 x 5 Kg/TN/yr
5	Combined TN leachate values from future land uses	25.00	Kg/TN/yr	Step 2 + Step 4
Total TN Leachate value for future land use: 25.00 Kg/TN/yr				

This demonstrates that the proposed mitigation area will result in a net decrease in total nitrogen output of 11.12 kg/TN/yr. There is therefore no potential for the mitigation area to result in an adverse effect on the integrity of the Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar or the Solent Maritime SAC.

Yours sincerely



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