

Dear Mr Tim Salter and Mr Mark Boulton,

Appeal- Land east of Crofton Cemetery and West of Peak Lane, Stubbington, Fareham (APP/A1720/W/21/3275237 for planning application P/20/0522/FP)

Thank you for your consultation on the above appeal, and apologies for the delay in this response.

New Forest European (Habitats) Sites and Qualifying Features

The Shadow Habitats Regulations Assessment (sHRA) Addendum dated October 2021 by Ecosa addresses potential impacts to the New Forest Special Protection Area (SPA), Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Ramsar sites, with the site Citations included in Appendix 2. These should provide comprehensive information regarding the qualifying features within the New Forest European (Habitats) sites.

Mitigation for Recreational Disturbance to the New Forest Sites

Natural England have recently advised that development within Fareham borough may have a likely significant effect on the New Forest designated sites from increased recreational impacts, in combination with other plans and projects within a 13.8km 'zone of influence' around the sites, based on [recent survey data](#). Affected local authorities are working in partnership to develop a definitive mitigation strategy that will enable new development to address the in combination effects through an agreed package of mitigation measures, including provision of alternative green space and contributions to measures directly at the designated sites themselves such as access management and wardening. In advance of such a strategy, Fareham Borough Council are progressing an interim mitigation strategy to appropriately address the impacts of development coming through at the current time, and the applicant may wish to engage with the local authority on this work.

For this case, the supporting Appropriate Assessment outlines mitigation to address recreational impacts on the New Forest sites in the form of a direct financial contribution to the New Forest National Park Authority's (NFNPA) Habitat Mitigation Scheme. The contribution is based on visit frequency figures within the Footprint telephone survey report (211.3 visits per year from within NFNPA, to 15.33 visits per year from the Fareham Borough). This is applied in calculating a proportional level of financial contribution per dwelling, to be provided to the National Park. We recommend that agreement is reached with the NFNPA that they will accept such a contribution, and that the measures to be funded are outlined within the Appropriate Assessment to demonstrate a clear link between the impact and the proposed mitigation.

Where you as competent authority are satisfied the proposed approach is suitably precautionary, and that such mitigation can be appropriately secured and delivered in perpetuity, Natural England would raise no further concerns over this aspect of the proposals.

I hope that this is helpful and please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Best wishes,

Mary Andrew
Sustainable Development Lead Adviser
Thames Solent Team
Natural England
4th Floor, Eastleigh House, Upper Market St, Eastleigh, SO50 9YN
Mobile: 07552 268094

<http://www.gov.uk/natural-england>



Dear Mary

Thank you for your email of the 11th of November regarding the delay to your consultation response on the above appeal.

The Inspector has requested that Natural England provide a response by Friday 26th of November. After that date the Inspector will proceed to a decision without the formal advice of Natural England.

Kind Regards

Tim Salter

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Dear Mr Tim Salter and Mr Mark Boulton,

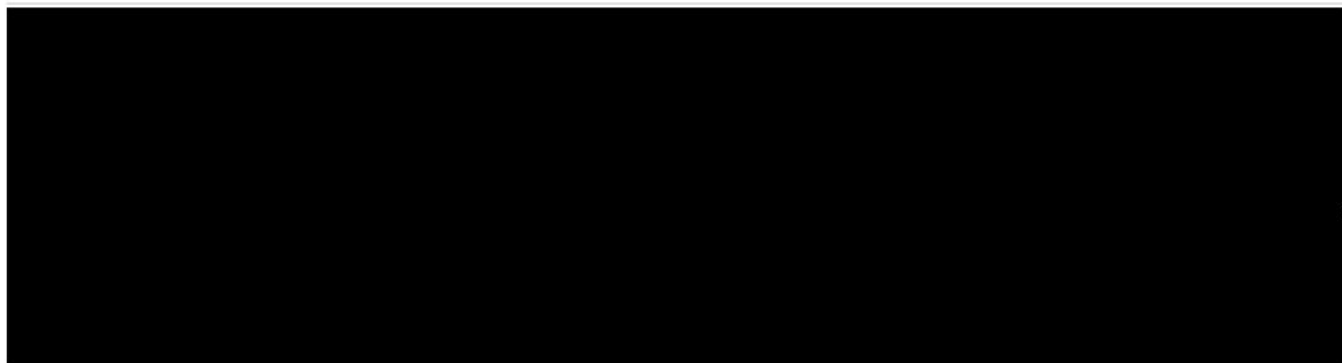
Thank you for your consultation regarding the above appeal. Unfortunately due to resource issues we are unable to provide comments to address your questions (below for reference) today. We will try to respond to you by the end of next week.

Apologies in the delay in responding.

Best wishes,

Mary Andrew
Sustainable Development Lead Adviser
Thames Solent Team
Natural England
4th Floor, Eastleigh House, Upper Market St, Eastleigh, SO50 9YN
Mobile: 07552 268094

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Dear Ms Aziz

I am writing to you in regards to the above appeal.

Regulation 63 (3) of the Habitats Regulations 2017 requires that the competent authority must for the purposes of the assessment consult the appropriate nature conservation body and have regard to any representations made by that body within such reasonable time as the authority specifies. Having had regard to the characteristics of the proposed development the Inspector considers that an appropriate assessment is necessary.

In order to seek your views as the appropriate nature conservation body as to the likely impact from the proposed development to New Forest SPA, SAC and Ramsar sites and their qualifying features, the Inspector seeks your views on the following:

1. Can Natural England confirm that the European Sites and qualifying features identified within the Appellant's information are comprehensive and correct? If not can you please indicate the additional site(s) or features should also be addressed.

2. To what extent does Natural England agree with the conclusions reached by the appellant's consultant Ecosa in the information they have provided?
3. Does Natural England consider that the proposed development would impact upon the integrity of the European Site and its qualifying features?
4. If so, and in the absence of an agreed strategy for authorities within the Zone of Influence around the New Forest, Is Natural England content that a financial contribution to be directed at mitigation measures set out within the New Forest Habitats SPD is sufficient to avoid an adverse impact to the integrity of the European Sites and relevant features? If you are not content then please specify your reasons and provide details of any additional measures you consider are necessary.
5. The proposed Habitats Mitigation Contribution will be secured by way of the attached unilateral undertaking. Can Natural England confirm if it is content that this adequately secures the deliverability of the measures.
6. Any other relevant matters that you wish to make.

The deadline for your consultation response is 11th of November 2021. Your response should be sent preferably electronically to tim.salter@planninginspectorate.gov.uk or by post (at the address below) marked for the attention of Tim Salter.

Kind Regards

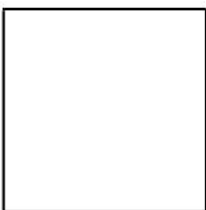
Mark Boulton
Operations Manager – Plans, Inquiries and Costs

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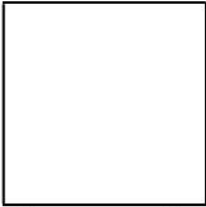
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