

Date: 23 January 2023
Our ref: 414103
Your ref: 22/02037/FUL



Catherine Watson
Winchester City Council

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BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Catherine

Planning consultation: Proposed anaerobic digestion facility with ancillary infrastructure, landscaping and access road with additional access from A272

Location: Land East of A272, Andover Road, Littleton, Hampshire.

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 17 November 2022 which was received by Natural England on the same date.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

NO OBJECTION - SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATE MITIGATION BEING SECURED

Air Quality – no objection

Natural England notes that the Air Quality assessment provided with the consultation has screened the proposal to check for the likelihood of significant effects from aerial emissions on the above named European sites. The screening report recommended detailed assessments of potential impacts from construction emissions and ammonia emissions.

These detailed assessments conclude that the proposal can be screened out from further stages of assessment because significant effects are unlikely to occur, either alone or in combination. On the basis of information provided, Natural England concurs with this view. We advise this is confirmed within your Habitat Regulations Assessment which currently only considers impacts to water quality.

Water Quality – no objection subject to mitigation

We note that proposals require a Bespoke Environmental Permit to operate and will be regulated by the Environment Agency, the Permit will require capture of all dirty water and only clean captured water may be released therefore the proposals should not result in the release of additional N and P loads to the River Itchen catchment. The Nutrient Neutrality guidance relates to overnight accommodation and not commercial development, with a case by case approach taken for these cases.

Your appropriate assessment, dated 6th December 2022, concludes that your authority is able to ascertain that the proposal will not result in adverse effects on the integrity of any of the sites in question. Having considered the assessment, and the measures proposed to mitigate for all identified adverse effects that could potentially occur as a result of the proposal, Natural England advises that we concur with the assessment conclusions.

Provided an appropriate planning condition or obligation is attached to any planning permission to

secure the mitigation measures, Natural England is satisfied that the applicant has mitigated against the potential adverse effects via poor water quality on the integrity of the European site(s).

Please note that if your authority is minded to grant planning permission contrary to the advice in this letter, you are required under Section 281 (6) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) to notify Natural England of the permission, the terms on which it is proposed to grant it and how, if at all, your authority has taken account of Natural England's advice. You must also allow a further period of 21 days before the operation can commence.

Other advice

Construction impacts

The proposed development is in close proximity to ancient woodland. Without best practice working methods and mitigation there is risk during the construction phase of the development that pollution from machinery, equipment or materials may enter into nearby woodland. Natural England recommends that a Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) is produced prior to start of the works and submitted and approved in writing by your authority. This should be secured by an appropriate planning condition or obligation. The CEMP should address the following impacts:

- Storage of construction materials/chemicals and equipment;
- Dust suppression
- Chemical and/or fuel run-off from construction
- Waste disposal
- Noise/visual/vibrational impacts

Further general advice on consideration of protected species and other natural environment issues is provided at Annex A.

Should the developer wish to discuss the detail of measures to mitigate the effects described above with Natural England, we recommend that they seek advice through our [Discretionary Advice Service](#).

For any queries regarding this letter, for new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Should the proposal change, please consult us again.

Yours sincerely

Rachael Clemson
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Thames Solent Area Team