Supplementary Information

HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLANNING POLICY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, 4TH JULY, 2023

Please note that the attached supplementary information was unavailable when the agenda was printed.

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From: Aziz, Rebecca
Sent: 03 July 2023 11:18
To: Hayward, David
Cc: Ellis, Jade; Glover, Gill
Subject: Warnford Park N mitigation - consideration temporal principles

Dear David

Thank you for raising with me the query you have received regarding the consideration of temporal principles as set out within Natural England's Nutrient Neutrality Principles published in March 2022.

The purpose of nutrient offsetting mitigation via land use change is to ensure the impact from increased eutrophication at the designated sites as a result of a proposed development, is avoided, rather than compensating for the impacts once they have occurred. Most of the nitrogen (N) affecting the Solent designated sites is transported via groundwater, streams and rivers; it is highly soluble and can easily leach off land and into the ground and surface water networks. There can be a time delay associated with movement of N through to the groundwater, dependent on geological circumstances. Time lags can vary considerably between different geologies and also depend on topography, groundwater depth, site specific factors etc. It is therefore important for any mitigation sites to be located in the most optimal locations; such sites would be located close to the surface water network; sloping topography towards a river is also optimal for passage of water and nutrients.

The mitigation land at Warnford is situated on chalk bedrock with freely draining soils. It is located in close proximity to the River Meon. The parcels to the north-west of the river are situated on a sloping topography down towards the river valley. The parcels to the east of the river are low lying and connected directly to the river via the surface water network via drains and issues, the latter indicating the water table is close to the surface. Natural England considers the timescales for passage of nutrients from the land to the surface water network are likely to be very short, with the benefits of mitigation likely to be felt in advance of the occupation of development relying on the scheme for nutrient offsetting. We have therefore not advised the specific commissioning of hyrdrogeological work for this particular scheme, and our position remains unchanged.

I hope this helps you to respond accordingly to the relevant deputation(s) you have received on your report to the Policy Planning Committee.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,
Becky

Becky Aziz
Senior Advisor Sustainable Development
Thames Solent Area Team
Natural England

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