

Date: 7 September 2011
Our ref: 30428
Your ref: 11/01733/CMA



Julia Davey
Hampshire County Council

2nd Floor
Cromwell House
15 Andover Road
Winchester
SO23 7BT

By email only, no hard copy to follow

Dear Ms Davey

**Bourley and Long Valley Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA)**

Proposal: Erection of open fronted waste transfer station for recycling of construction waste

Location: Beacon Hill Pit, Beacon Hill Road, Ewshot, Farnham

Thank you for your email dated 10 August 2011 consulting Natural England on the above proposal. The site is close to the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area classified on 9th March 2005 under the EC Birds Directive. This part of the SPA lies in the Bourley and Long Valley Site of Special Scientific Interest, notified by English Nature under the provisions of section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

It is Natural England's advice that the proposals are unlikely to have a significant effect upon the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA), or upon the the Bourley and Long Valley Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). However construction works so close to the SPA/SSSI boundary could cause pollution, demolition and dust upon the adjacent site.

Natural England would have no objection to the application, providing the following can be assured:

- 1) all demolition works must be completed outside the bird breeding season
- 2) No materials, machinery or work should encroach onto the SPA/SSSI either before during or after demolition, construction or on going use
- 3) The Council must ascertain that no pollution from demolition or construction of the development adversely affect the SPA
- 4) The Council must be certain that any proposed changes to access and hard standing will not adversely affect the SPA/SSSI.

If the Council is minded to grant planning permission, without due regard to the above, the procedures set out in S.28(l) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act would apply.

Protected species

If representations from other parties highlight the possible presence, or the Council is aware of a protected or Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) species on the site, the Council should request survey information from the applicant before determining the application. Paragraph 98 and 99 of ODPM

Circular 06/2005 and Paragraph 16 of Planning Policy Statement 9¹ provide information on BAP and protected species and their consideration in the planning system. We would draw the Council's attention to our protected species standing advice, which provides guidance on when protected species may be impacted by a proposal. The advice can be found at: <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/planningtransportlocalgov/spatialplanning/standingadvice/default.aspx>

Should there be any further modification or amendment to the application, however, which may affect the SSSI or European site, Natural England must be consulted further.

I trust these comments are helpful but please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any other information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sarah Armstrong-Stacey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sarah Armstrong-Stacey
Planning and Conservation Adviser
Land Use Operations Team

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¹ Government Circular: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation – Statutory obligations and their impact within the planning system ODPM Circular 06/2005/Defra Circular 01/2005