From: SM-Defra-Plan Cons Area Team (Sussex and Kent) (NE) <PlanConsAreaTeamSussexandKent@defra.gov.uk>
Sent: 11 February 2025 17:37:57 UTC+00:00
To: "Planning" <planning@horsham.gov.uk>
Cc: "Bethan.Tinning" <Bethan.Tinning@horsham.gov.uk>
Subject: 502336 - Natural England's response to Water Neutrality consultation DC/24/1959
Attachments: Annex A - Other Advice.pdf, Appropriate Assessment.docx

Dear Planning Team,

Thank you for consulting with Natural England regarding the following consultation.

The proposed development falls within the Sussex North water supply zone; As set out in Natural England's Advice Note regarding Water Neutrality within the Sussex North Water Supply Zone, the existing water supply in the Sussex North water supply zone cannot be ruled out as contributing to the declines in wildlife within internationally protected sites in the Arun Valley SPA, SAC and Ramsar site. Achieving water neutrality is recognised as a suitable method to rule out potential adverse effects on the integrity of these sites arising from development.

Considering the supporting information provided by the applicant and your authority's habitats regulation assessment (HRA) our advice is as follows.

Our ref	**LPA ref**	**Planning Consultation and Location**	**Natural England's advice**
502336	DC/24/1959	**Planning Consultation**: HRA & Appropriate Assessment & Water Neutrality Statement - Removal of 9 fishing swims & the siting of 3 shepherds huts for use as holiday accommodation (Class C3) together with associated works. **Location**: Furnace Lakes, Guildford Road, Slinfold RH13 0QZ.	We concur with the conclusion of your authority's HRA appropriate assessment insofar that adverse effects on the integrity of the Arun Valley Designated sites can be ruled out, as such: We have no objections subject to the: delivery, management and maintenance of measures identified in the water neutrality statement to achieve water neutrality.

Further general advice on the protected species and other natural environment issues is provided in the attached Annex A.

If you have any queries relating to this advice, please let us know,

Yours sincerely,

Rebecca Bishop – for the Sussex & Kent Planning Inbox

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