



Richard Buxton
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25 July 2014

By email only

Dear Mr Buxton,

**New Forest engineering works: Latchmore Brook
North Sluffers application 14/00394**

I refer to your letter of 11 July 2014 regarding the Forestry Commission's ("FC") work in connection with the above.

North Sluffers

As confirmed in my subsequent email to your colleague Lisa Foster on 16 July 2014, I reported your letter of 11 July 2014 to the Planning Committee on 15 July 2014. In doing so, I referred to our earlier Screening Opinion of 12 February 2014 in respect of the EIA issues and to Natural England's consultation response dated 17 June 2014 in respect of the Habitats Directive which confirmed *"that the proposal is entirely necessary for European site management. Natural England considers that the works are necessary for the management of the European site interest features for nature conservation purposes...the proposal can therefore be screened out from further stages in the Habitats Regulations Assessment process, as set out under Regulation 61 of the Habitats Regulations 2010, as amended"*.

In summary, as this wetland restoration scheme is necessary for the management of the New Forest SAC (the details of which are set out in the Planning Statement accompanying the application) it does not need further consideration under the Habitats Regulations. This means that the proposed works at North Sluffers do not need to be subject to an Appropriate Assessment.

I have attached a copy of the planning decision notice as requested.

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www.newforestnpa.gov.uk

CHAIRMAN Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre CHIEF EXECUTIVE Alison Barnes

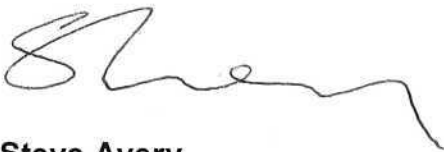
Latchmore Brook

A copy of my earlier letter to Lisa Foster dated 20 May 2014 is attached.

In a recent meeting with Michael Mayes and Ailsa Farrand (11 June 2014) I confirmed that we would consider the Latchmore proposal afresh under the Habitats Directive on receipt of the planning application and/or as soon as the details of the scheme have been finalised. This approach is entirely consistent with the position adopted by Natural England in their earlier letter of 21 May 2014. I would also advise that we are still awaiting the scoping report for the Environmental Statement and I have undertaken to inform (and consult) your clients as soon as we receive the report.

Regarding the other matters raised in your letter, I am liaising with Natural England and shall revert to you following my return from leave on 11 August 2014.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Avery', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Steve Avery
Executive Director (Strategy and Planning)

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