

WCC PAPER No. 6

Winchester City Councils Comments on the Denmead Meadows Position Paper (REP6-072)

At Deadline 6 the Council presented a detailed Position paper on its concerns relating to Biodiversity impact at both Lovedean and at Denmead Meadows. This is recorded as REP6-087. When that paper was written, the Council had some knowledge of the paper being prepared by the applicant. Those comments are still considered to be relevant at this time. Accordingly, it is not considered necessary to make further general comments on the applicants D6 submission entitled Denmead Meadows Position Paper (REP6-072).

The Council would like to take the opportunity of submitting a report on the habitat quality of the Kings Pond SINC entitled Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre Kings Pond Meadow Habitat Survey May 2020. The Council is not the author of this report and has only recently obtained the agreement of the authors for its release. This report is considered to support the Councils position that the habitat value of the Kings Pond Meadow SINC and specifically Field 8 east should have a greater level of regard applied to it than the applicant has applied.

When responding to the application to date, the Council has confined its comments to responding to the documents that have been published on the application web site. This was despite the fact it might have been aware of additional information because of discussions and contacts with the applicant. Considering that, we are entering the final part of the Examination Process and the opportunities to comment and respond are more limited. The Council is therefore proposes to offer an indication of what is likely to be a more accepted solution in terms of its approach to biodiversity. It is understood that the applicant may be about review its position regarding the southern launch compound. In any event the Councils views on that situation are fully detailed in its D6 position paper. Regarding the northern recovery drill compound, the Council wishes to share the following considerations.

The technical reasons why the drilling section cannot be extended northward to emerge on the agricultural land north of Anmore Road have already been outlined and accepted. This leads to the conclusion that the compound has to be located south of the Anmore Road. Accordingly, the Council feels that the focus should be on minimising any impacts from its temporary presence. The applicants intentions are to remove a layer of soil and then reinstate this using any surplus seed from the

seed harvest undertaken as part of the restoration of the land at the southern end. Leaving the soil in situ and using protective mats and teram should be considered together with seeding. When constructing the open trenches careful removal of the seed bearing layer of soil with the use a micro digger or light pressure equipment with access limited to the smallest area necessary should be considered. The Council is ready to discuss with the applicant the methodology to be adopted to undertake the work and in the reinstate the ground.

End.

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