

Working to Protect the New Forest



PLANNING COMMITTEE

Reply to: -

Brookley Farmhouse Sway Road Brockenhurst Hampshire SO427RX
01590 623935 brookleyfarmhouse@btinternet.com

Sent as attachment to Email only

8th October 2014

Mr Steve Avery
New Forest National Park Authority
Lymington Town Hall
Avenue Road
Lymington SO41 9ZG

Dear Steve,

Application 00691

Latchmore Wetland Restoration Environmental Impact Assessment: Scoping Report

1. New Forest Association (NFA) makes the following comments on this document.
2. In the opinion of the NFA, the decision to require an EIA for this proposal, unlike the proposals for Amberslade, Harvest Bottom, Parkhill Lawn and similar restoration projects carried out by other landowners was incorrect. The consequence of this error is that a standard methodology has been bludgeoned into a development for which it is not suited.
3. The area in which the project is to be undertaken is extremely rich in wildlife. Following the project the area will be extremely rich in wildlife and, in the scale of developments where an EIA is genuinely essential (eg Dibden Bay) changes will be minor. It is not clear to NFA that the EIA proposed will prove very effective in detecting these differences.
4. There will some loss of exceptional habitat A and some gain in exceptional habitat B. The nature of the habitats is well known from previous projects and the change in sizes of habitat areas is predictable. The species inhabiting these habitats can be accurately estimated. An approach that started with this premise and asked for a specialist species survey for groups actually known to be of interest in the area would probably have more value than the *bats, badgers and newts* approach. But would this approach satisfy the requirements of an EIA?
5. NFA believe the scoping report should consider the longer term ecological stability of the Latchmoor area if the project is undertaken or if nothing is done. A deteriorating habitat on the one hand and an improving one on the other could well be the single most important consideration in determining the eventual application.

Yours sincerely,

Graham Baker, NFA Planning Committee