

From: **Hampshire Ornithological Society**

Regards: Application 20/03004/FUL

Date: 08/01/2021

Dear Sir/Madam

Hampshire Ornithological Society would like to register its opposition to 20/03004/FUL at Fleet Pond in Hampshire on the following grounds.

- 1) The timing of the proposed works will coincide with the breeding season and would be in breach of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. In which it is illegal to disturb any Schedule 1 breeding species. We can confirm the breeding on site of Cetti's warbler which is highly sensitive to disturbance and we have no doubt could be displaced by the scheduling of works.

The proposed HDC Construction Environmental Plan (Section 4) Indicative Construction Programme suggest works will be carried out between March and July 2021. This is the breeding season.

Works on site during this period, would be a direct breach of WCA 81 regulations.

- 2) The Mitigation Overview was written before the habitat and botanical baseline survey requested by the Fleet Pond Society was carried out. The survey found *'All habitats present along the footpath are UK BAP priority Habitats and are also listed as habitats of principal importance in England under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006. They are also a component of Fleet Pond SSSI and Local Nature Reserve.* The mitigation projects proposed by Hart - although worthy - will not replace the wet woodland habitat that will be lost as a result of the construction of the footpath.

The loss of critical BAP habitat, without any obvious plan to replace like for like is viewed as inadequate recompense and could result in declining biodiversity at the SSSI.

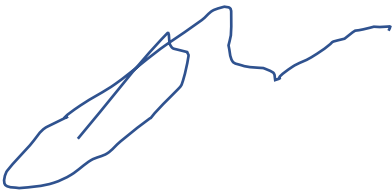
- 3) The development plans show the existing wooden sleeper bank protection to be replaced by sheet piling. What sustainable, more wildlife beneficial solutions were considered? Unplanted coir rolls attached to sheet piling at this SSSI would be ecologically damaging and the developer should be able to show that alternatives are available which are less disruptive to local ecology and landscape.

Under no circumstance should this work proceed in March 2021. And if it is to proceed at all, detailed provision should be given to the points listed above.

Yours sincerely



Keith Betton- Chair HOS



Andy Lester- Conservation Liaison and Trustee HOS