



The Planning Inspectorate

Room 3L
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol, BS1 6PN

Customer Services: 0303 444 5000
e-mail: Environmentalservices@pins.gsi.gov.uk

Head of Development Control
Horsham District Council
Parkside
Chart Way
Horsham
West Sussex
RH12 1RL

Your Ref: DC/24/0820

Our Ref: APP/Z3825/W/24/3357803

Date: 03 April 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2017 (SI 571/2017) ('THE EIA REGULATIONS')

Appeal by Dynamic Climate

Site Address: Land at The Smithy, Bolney Road, Cowfold, Horsham, West Sussex, RH13 8AA

I refer to the above appeal.

The Secretary of State has considered the application in accordance with Regulation 14 (1) of the above Regulations.

The development proposed is as follows: Erection of an additional storey to provide first floor office space.

The development proposed falls within the description at 10 (b) of Schedule 2 to the above Regulations. In the opinion of the Secretary of State, having taken into account the criteria in Schedule 3 to the above Regulations, the proposal would not be likely to have significant effect on the environment for the following reasons:

The Proposed Development site falls within the Sussex North Water Supply Zone (SNWSZ) as defined by Natural England and which draws its water supply from groundwater abstraction at Hardham. It is considered that new development in this Zone could have adverse effects on the integrity of the following nearby designated sites:

- The Arun Valley Special Protection Area (SPA), Special Area of Conservation (SAC), and Ramsar site.

Considering the nature, scale and location of the Proposed Development and nature of the receiving environment, whilst there may be some impact on the surrounding area and nearby designated sensitive areas as a result of this development, which could

also include possible ecological and heritage issues, it would not be of a scale and nature likely to result in significant environmental impact. The threshold criteria at 10 (b) of Schedule 2 to the above regulations are also not exceeded.

The Proposed Development is not EIA development.

Accordingly, in exercise of the powers conferred on the Secretary of State by Regulations 14(1) and 7(5) of the above Regulations, the Secretary of State hereby directs that this development is not Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development.

Under regulation 28(1) of the above Regulations, the relevant planning authority must take steps to secure that this screening direction is placed on the part of the Planning Register which relates to the application in question. I would be grateful if you could do so to ensure that the Secretary of State's view is publicly available.

(This direction does not affect any duties of the appellant under other legislation, including The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.)

Yours sincerely

David Smale

DAVID SMALE
EIA and Land Rights Advisor

(Signed with the authority of the Secretary of State)

cc: Mr L Carter (agent)

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