



<b>Project</b>	Eastlands Farm (SA052, SA747 and SA791)
<b>Document</b>	Horsham District Council Local Plan 2023-2040 <b>Matter 3 Hearing Statement</b> obo Hunter Group

**Matter 3, Issue 2 – Whether the approach to water neutrality and flooding is justified, effective, consistent with national policy and positively prepared?**

***Q1. Is Strategic Policy 9: Water Neutrality sound?***

We support the policy on the basis that it allows for bespoke water neutrality solutions for which our site can demonstrate a solution can be found and in full accordance with the draft policy requirements.

***d) Is the approach to water off setting justified and effective? Has any further progress been made on implementing the Sussex North Offsetting Water Scheme? When realistically is it likely to be in place? Will it be effective?***

In our view, the scale and complexity of the Sussex North Offsetting Water Scheme (SNOWS) scheme has the potential to lead to further delays in housing delivery whilst it is in its infancy; particularly on more strategic sites where the scale and complexity could be difficult to manage in combination with a backlog of approvals signing up to the scheme. An overreliance on the scheme would therefore affect the resilience of the plan.

In accordance with proposed Policy 9: Water Neutrality, which supports the potential for offsetting schemes which do not use SNOWS, a greater number of allocations could be made across the district for both employment and residential proposal which could demonstrate water neutrality through bespoke means.

The site at Chantry Industrial Estate and Chantry Quarry (SA455) has the potential to deliver both housing and employment, supported by bespoke water neutrality solutions, in accordance with draft Local Plan Policy 9.