

Draft New Local Plan Habitat Regulation Assessment Representations

Comment No.	Consultee	Nature of Comment	Comments	Recommendations
DRAFT/HRA/1	Mrs Karen Robinson	An objection	With regard to H15 why does the Habitat Regulation Assessment quote 30 homes but the Consultation Plan quote 35 homes? This makes the assessment invalid.	The final assessment will be revised to align with proposals for this site. However, as there are no direct impacts on European Sites arising from this site, it is unlikely that the scale of difference of development proposed will impact on the findings of this assessment.
DRAFT/HRA/2	Mrs Karen Robinson	An objection	The habitat regulation assessment is for 30 homes not 35 as on the local plan so therefore the assessment is invalid.	As above
DRAFT/HRA/3	David Hammond NATURAL ENGLAND		<p>The approach and methodology used are acceptable to Natural England and are in line with relevant legislation. Natural England accepts the conclusion that it is not possible to screen out all Likely Significant Effects and therefore liaison and discussion with neighbouring boroughs and developers is encouraged, this will also meet the Council's Duty to Cooperate requirements.</p> <p>Natural England expects to be consulted on projects or applications which have the potential to impact on designated (Natura 2000) sites, should a developer or applicant not be sure that a project or application may have an impact, then consultation/contact with Natural England is encouraged at an early stage to discuss and consider.</p>	<p>It is noted that the approach and methodology of the assessment are acceptable to Natural England. It is also noted that the conclusions of the assessment are accepted.</p> <p>It will be necessary to work with neighbouring authorities and Natural England through the Duty to Cooperate process to limit impacts on European Sites. This will be addressed through the TGSE Memorandum work.</p>

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DRAFT/HRA/4	Mr Alex Cooper RSPB	A technical comment	<p>We have reviewed the Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening and have the following comments. We note that Policy T2 mentions the potential for 'new' access to Canvey Island during the plan period.</p> <p>We are aware of the North Thames Link Road (also known as Canvey Regeneration Link Road) which has been mentioned in the Local Plan, which would connect Canvey Island to the Manorway. This link road is shown in Figure 2-3 in the Transport Assessment to pass through Holehaven Creek potential Special Protection Area (pSPA). We believe that for completeness this project should be included in Table 6 of the HRA.</p> <p>Paragraph 119 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) makes clear that the following wildlife sites should be given the same protection as European Sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • potential Special Protection Areas and possible Special Areas of Conservation; • listed or proposed Ramsar sites; and • sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on European sites, potential Special Protection Areas, possible Special Areas of Conservation, and listed or proposed Ramsar sites. <p>As Holehaven Creek is a pSPA and is functionally linked to the Thames Estuary and Marshes SPA any projects passing through this site would have to be assessed under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended).</p>	<p>The evidence in the HRA indicates that the North Thames Link Road may have an adverse impact on the Holehaven Creek SSSI. This needs to be considered when determining the appropriateness of including this proposal within the New Local Plan.</p> <p>It is noted that Holehaven Creek is a potential SPA, and as such the impacts of the draft New Local Plan on this site should be considered in the final version of the HRA to accompany the New Local Plan. This may result in the need for the New Local Plan to be amended to ensure that adverse impacts are avoided as far as is possible.</p>