

Date: 25th January 2018
Our ref: 234288
Your ref:



BY EMAIL ONLY

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Dear Mr Massow,

Hatfield Peverel Neighbourhood Plan Habitats Regulations Assessment – Screening Report

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated and received by Natural England on 18th December 2017.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Natural England agrees with the conclusion of no likely significant effect either alone or in combination provided the following amendments are made to the HRA Report and the Neighbourhood Plan:

1. We advise that references to compensatory measures in Table 3.1 and paragraph 3.4 are removed as it is not possible for a Neighbourhood Plan to proceed if compensatory measures are required. A Neighbourhood Plan cannot progress if there is a likely significant effect.
2. Policy HO6 – Natural England provided advice on the planning application and HRA which was submitted for 145 houses. We advised that the mitigation measures provided in the planning application were sufficient to enable a conclusion of no likely significant effect to be reached. NE would recommend that the mitigation measures required for that planning application are included in Policy HO6. This will show that the allocation in the neighbourhood plan has identified its own bespoke mitigation measures. Also if any additional housing proposals come forward for this site the neighbourhood plan has a policy which specifies the necessary mitigation until the Essex Recreational disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (RAMS) is in place.

3. We would also advise that the general Housing Policy HO1 is updated which requires any future residential development to be subject to a project level HRA until the Essex RAMS is finalised. Where mitigation is required then bespoke mitigation measures will need to be provided. Once the RAMS is in place then development will be subject to the mitigation and avoidance measures specified in the Mitigation Strategy.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Kate Ginn on 07876034621. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

We really value your feedback to help us improve the service we offer. We have attached a feedback form to this letter and welcome any comments you might have about our service.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Fraser
West Anglia Area Team