



HILLINGDON

LONDON

Natural England Consultation Service
Hornbeam House
Electra Way
Crewe Business Park
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 6GJ

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SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT - UPDATE EC HABITATS DIRECTIVE (COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 92/43/EEC) LONDON BOROUGH OF HILLINGDON LOCAL PLAN PART 2: PROPOSED MAIN MODIFICATIONS

Dear Natural England Consultation Service,

Please find below a brief update to the Council's Screening for Appropriate Assessment for the Proposed Main Modifications to the London Borough of Hillingdon Local Plan Part 2: Revised Proposed Submission Version 2015.

In summary, the Council boundary does not include any Natura 2000 or Ramsar sites and therefore the only impacts to be considered in relation to appropriate assessment relate to indirect impacts.

The Local Plan Part 2 Proposed Submission Version September 2014 was subject to public consultation from September 2014 to November 2014. Alongside the preparation of the Local Plan documents, the Council carried out a Screening for Appropriate Assessment, which considered the impact of the Local Plan Part on Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites in accordance with the Habitats Directive. A copy of this has been attached for ease of reference.

A number of changes were then made on this document to produce the Local Plan Part 2 Proposed Submission Version October 2015. This document was subject to public consultation from October 2015 to December 2015. The Council reviewed the documents that form part of Local Plan Part 2 Proposed Submission Version October 2015 to consider

Planning Policy Team
Residents Services
T.01895 558301
localplan@hillingsdon.gov.uk www.hillingsdon.gov.uk
London Borough of Hillingdon,
3N/02, Civic Centre, High Street, Uxbridge, UB8 1UW

whether the proposed changes would alter the individual or cumulative impacts of the site allocations and development management policies on the European sites that are designated under the Habitats Directive and identified in Stage 1 of Screening for Appropriate Assessment 2014. Given the protection afforded by the policies, in particular the environmental policies (DMEI) and the distance of the Natura 2000 sites and Ramsar Sites from the Borough, the Council considered that there was no need to alter the conclusions from the previous screening assessment.

This position was outlined in writing to Natural England on 23rd October 2015 and written confirmation was then received which concluded that Natural England shared the views of the Council that no further assessment was required. Both these letters have been attached for ease of reference.

The London Borough of Hillingdon Local Plan Part 2: Revised Proposed Submission Version 2015 was submitted for examination on 21st May 2018 to begin the examination in public phase and a notification email was sent to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk. An additional email was also sent by the Programme Officer on 14th June 2018 to ask whether Natural England wished to take part in the Public Hearings, to which no response was provided. The Public Hearings took place in August 2018 and the Inspector has provided a Post Hearing Advice Note outlining that the Plan could be found sound subject to Proposed Main Modifications. These Proposed Main Modifications are however subject to consultation before the Inspector reaches a final conclusion. Details of the Proposed Main Modifications and the consultation process are available at the following link:

<https://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/article/33780/Local-Plan-Part-2-Examination>

The Council has reviewed the Proposed Main Modifications to consider whether the proposed changes would alter the individual or cumulative impacts of the site allocations and development management policies on the European sites that are designated under the Habitats Directive and identified in Stage 1 of Screening for Appropriate Assessment 2014. The Council have concluded that the Proposed Main Modifications do not alter the conclusions from the previous screening assessment.

We would however welcome written confirmation that Natural England shares the position of the Council.

Yours faithfully,

Julia Johnson
Planning Policy Manager