

Date: 24 May 2024



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**BY EMAIL ONLY**

Dear Valerie,

### **Planning consultation: Addendum to Habitats Regulations Assessment – Pre-Submission Modifications**

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 welcomes the ongoing engagement with your authority with respect to the Local Plan and remains committed to working with your authority moving forward. The following advice contained within this letter is in response to the Addendum to Habitats Regulations Assessment – Pre-Submission Modifications that you shared with us on the 29<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

#### Likely Significant Effects of the Proposed Modifications

Having reviewed the proposed modifications to the Local Plan, Natural England is satisfied that none of the proposed changes outlined within Table One will result in a likely significant effect, nor change the conclusions of the original Habitats Regulations Assessment undertaken.

#### Modifications to Nutrient Budgets

Natural England supports the decision to produce a revised nutrient budget given the length of time that has passed since the previous budget was calculated. Whilst it is understood that the total budget (for the whole plan period) has been reduced from previous calculations, it is noted that the current five-year period (2024-2029) has increased by approximately 20kg/N/yr when compared to the previous five-year period (2021-2026). Nonetheless, Natural England is satisfied that at a project level, there are suitable means of mitigating any net increase in nutrients arising from the proposed allocations contained within the proposed Local Plan.

As such, Natural England remains satisfied (as per the conclusions of the previous HRA) that it can be concluded that there will be no adverse effects on the integrity of the Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA and Ramsar site, and the Solent Maritime SAC as a result of the policies contained within the proposed plan.

#### Updated air quality assessment / Appendix A – Air Quality Technical Note

Whilst we welcome the ongoing work and assessment that has been undertaken in order to inform this addendum; as per my email to you on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024, unfortunately Natural England is currently unable to provide formal comments on the sections of the addendum relating to air quality. We will however continue to engage and work closely with your authority on this matter and will provide our formal comments as part of a separate addendum in due course.

Should you have any further queries please contact me at [luke.hasler@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:luke.hasler@naturalengland.org.uk).

Yours sincerely

Luke Hasler  
Sussex & Kent Area Team