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Examiner – Warfield Neighbourhood Plan
Intelligent Plans and Examinations (IPE) Ltd
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37 Gay Street
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18 February 2021

Dear Jill,

Further to our previous correspondence, I now have pleasure in enclosing the Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Report prepared by AECOM to enable you to recommence the examination.

The scope of the HRA was agreed with Bracknell Forest Council (BFC) and Natural England (NE) in Nov/Dec 2020 (see Appendix A) and modified as follows to reflect their response:

- NE requiring the use of a 10km radius of Warfield Parish as the zone of influence (agreed see HRA paragraph 3.21)
- BFC requiring modelling to include B roads in addition to A & M category roads (agreed see HRA paragraph 5.25 and 5.26)
- If your AQ modelling shows AQ exceedances on parts of the Thames Basin Heaths SPA which also have the Thursley, Ash, Pirbright Chobham SAC designation, will the effect on the integrity of the SAC also be taken into account?

The HRA also responds to the issues raised by Natural England in their Regulation 16 response dated 24th July 2019.

In relation to Policy WNP2 (Hayley Green Allocation), the HRA report published by consultants AECOM 'screened in' the following 'likely significant effects' (LSEs) of the Neighbourhood Plan proposals in relation to the Thames Basin Heaths SPA, the Thursley, Ash, Pirbright and Chobham SAC and the Windsor Forest and Great Park SAC:

- Atmospheric Pollution,
- Recreational Pressure, and
- Loss of functionally linked habitat

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Warfield Parish Council (the Qualifying Body) accept the following conclusions and recommendations of the HRA in full.

Thames Basin Heaths SPA

Recreational pressure:

“Overall, it is concluded that, given the adequate policy framework included in the WNP (i.e. appropriate recognition of the need to mitigate recreational effects in the SPA using SANG and SAMM), there will be no adverse effects of the plan on the site integrity of the Thames Basin Heaths SPA regarding the impact pathway recreational pressure.” (paragraphs 5.21 and 6.3)

Atmospheric Pollution:

“Given its negligible individual contribution to the observed in-combination nitrogen deposition rate to the Thames Basin Heaths SPA, it is concluded that the plan will not result in adverse effects on the integrity of the SPA regarding atmospheric pollution, even ‘in combination’ with other plans and projects.” (paragraph 5.47 and 6.6)

Thursley, Ash, Pirbright and Chobham SAC

Atmospheric Pollution:

“...It is considered that the WNP will not result in adverse effects on the integrity of the Thursley, Ash, Pirbright & Chobham SAC regarding atmospheric pollution.” (paragraph 5.60 and 6.6)

Windsor Forest and Great Park SAC

Atmospheric Pollution:

“...It is concluded that the WNP will not result in adverse impacts on the Windsor Forest & Great Park SAC regarding NH₃ concentrations, either alone or in-combination.” (paragraph 5.74 and 6.9)

“Furthermore, AECOM considers that the policy recommendation provided with regard to the Thames Basin Heaths SPA and the Thursley, Ash, Pirbright & Chobham SAC, will also result in additional protection to the interest features of the Windsor Forest & Great Park SAC” (paragraph 6.10)

Proposed WNP Submission Plan modifications

The Qualifying Body propose the following modifications to the Submission Plan for your consideration in the light of the HRA recommendations and as an addendum to the Basic Conditions Statement:

Modification 1.

Update paragraphs 1.9 – 1.12 to bring them up to date with the HRA conclusions and recommendations.

Modification 2.

Insert the following at new clause xvii of WNP2:

“Measures to avoid and mitigate the impact of residential development upon Habitats Sites, in line with Policy WNP6 and the Thames Basin Heaths SPA SPD or any successor **adopted** mitigation strategy, in agreement with the Council and Natural England as part of the planning application”.

The Warfield Neighbourhood Plan has faced many challenges on its route to examination. I hope the work undertaken on HRA will allow the examination to proceed. I recognise time is tight, but the opportunity to bring forward the plan to referendum with other elections in May 2021 would be a welcome boost to all involved. We would therefore hope that you can encourage any other parties involved to act expeditiously in any required response as the plan has already undergone considerable scrutiny and review.

Yours sincerely



Jason Mawer

Parish Clerk

Enc. WNP HRA Report
Warfield AQ HRA Technical Note
Warfield AQ Modelling Memo
Copy of BFC/NE response (appendix 1)