



Mr Stephen Pointer,
Team Manager, Planning Policy
Nottinghamshire County Council
County Hall
West Bridgford
Nottingham
NG2 7QP

21 February 2020

Dear Mr Pointer

Examination of Nottinghamshire Minerals Local Plan

Further to your submission of the Minerals Local Plan (MLP) I have carried out a preliminary review of the MLP and the evidence produced. I am writing to you regarding the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA).

The HRA finds that there are no linking impact pathways between the site allocations proposed in the Plan and the three European sites considered. The potential for likely significant effects has consequently been screened out at the first stage of the HRA. However, some of the Site Allocation Development Briefs at Appendix 2 of the Plan describe potential indirect links to European sites. These are Bawtry Road west (MP2k), which is said to have potential indirect hydrological links to the Hatfield Moor SAC, Scrooby Thompson Land (MP2l) and Scrooby North (MP2m).

While detailed assessment would be a matter for planning applications, I am concerned that potential links have been identified at this stage. This may indicate that the likelihood of significant effects on European sites cannot be excluded, in which case, on a precautionary basis, Appropriate Assessment would be required.

I would be grateful for your response on this matter, and an indication of any action you intend to take. Please would you also provide further information about the potential links to European sites described in the Site Allocation Development Briefs and the source(s) of this information.

Should it be necessary to revisit the HRA, please indicate the likely timescale, to inform the hearing arrangements.

Yours sincerely

Nick Palmer

INSPECTOR