

This matter is being dealt with by:
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Dear Mr Palmer

28 February 2020

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE MINERALS LOCAL PLAN – HABITATS REGULATION ASSESSMENT

Thank you for your letter of 28 February 2020 regarding additional information on the Minerals Local Plan Habitats Regulation Assessment.

The earlier HRA Screening report referred to in my letter dated 27 February 2018 related to the preparation of a draft Minerals Local Plan which was withdrawn by the Council in 2017. This indicated that an Appropriate Assessment was not required:

‘It is concluded that, subject to implementation of the recommendations above, the Nottinghamshire Minerals Local Plan is unlikely to generate any significant effects on the European sites identified, either alone or in- combination.

In view of the findings of this HRA Screening Report it is not considered that Appropriate Assessment of this Plan is required.’

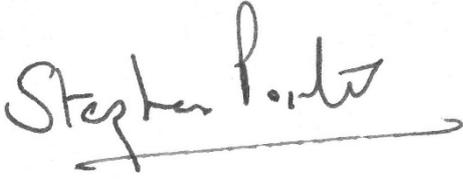
Whilst it was not strictly necessary to include the reference to the potential indirect hydrological impact on the relevant SAC’s in the development briefs this was included through an abundance of caution to ensure that any future planning application took account of this issue.

The HRA Screening Report prepared for the current draft Minerals Local Plan concluded that the potential for likely significant effects could be screened out and that further appropriate assessment and/or mitigation is not required:

‘Three European sites were considered within the scope of this HRA: Birklands and Billaugh SAC, Hatfield Moor SAC and Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA. The test of likely significant effects identified no linking impact pathways between site allocations proposed in the Plan and these European sites. The potential for likely significant effects can therefore be screened out at the first stage of HRA alone or in combination with other projects and plans. Further appropriate assessment and/or mitigation are not required.’

I hope that this clarifies the position and confirm that the Council is willing to propose the removal of the references within the development briefs to avoid confusion.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Pointer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.

Stephen Pointer

Team Manager, Planning Policy
Nottinghamshire County Council