

This matter is being dealt with by:
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Dear Mr Palmer

27 February 2020

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE MINERALS LOCAL PLAN – HABITATS REGULATION ASSESSMENT

Thank you for your letter of 21 February 2020 regarding the Minerals Local Plan Habitats Regulation Assessment and the specific content of the development briefs for site allocations MP2k, MP2l and MP2m. As you correctly state the potential for likely significant effects has been screened out as part of the HRA, however a number of the development briefs make reference to potential indirect hydrological impacts on specific SACs.

The reasons for this are set out below:

As part of the evidence base for the preparation of a revised Minerals Local Plan, a Habitats Regulation Assessment screening report was undertaken in 2013 by WSP UK Limited, which considered similar site proposals to those identified above.

The 2013 HRA noted that the Bawtry Road quarry could have potential indirect hydrological impacts on the Hatfield Moor SAC and the Scrooby quarries could have potential indirect hydrological impacts on the Birklands and Bilhaugh SAC and Sherwood Forest ppSPA, but stated that the identified SACs were all above 2.5km from the proposed quarries.

The recommendations of the HRA stated that the MLP should contain a policy that highlights potential issues in relation to hydrology and the need for projects to demonstrate that they will not significantly affect the integrity of a European site. The HRA then concluded that the Minerals Local Plan is unlikely to generate any significant effects on the European sites identified, either alone or in combination and that based on the findings of the HRA Screening Report, an Appropriate Assessment of the plan was not required.

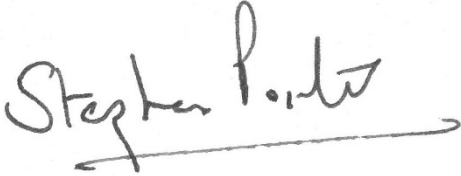
As part of the evidence base developed for the new Minerals Local Plan, a HRA screening report was undertaken by Aecom in 2019. This screening report did not highlight any HRA implications noting that the Hatfield Moor SAC was 8.6km north of the Bawtry Road West allocation (MP2k) and that the Sherwood ppSPA would be approximately 8.5km south of the Scrooby proposals (MP2l & MP2m).

As a result of the earlier HRA, the reference to the potential indirect hydrological impacts were included in the development briefs to ensure that at the detailed planning application stage this issue was given adequate consideration.

Based on the above information, the County Council does not consider it is necessary to revisit the 2019 HRA, however if it is felt that it would aid consistency, the reference to the potential indirect hydrological impacts could be removed from the relevant development briefs.

I hope that this clarifies the position but please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries regarding this matter.

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 end.

Stephen Pointer

Team Manager, Planning Policy
Nottinghamshire County Council