

Forest Heath District Council
Proposed Submission Single Issue Review (SIR) of Core Strategy
Policy CS7 Overall Housing Provision and Distribution and
supporting Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

Statement of Common Ground

Reference: SoCG 2/Natural England

Date 7 September 2017

This statement of common ground relates to Matter 6 – The effects of the new housing and the traffic generated by it on European Sites, in particular question 6.4) Has Natural England confirmed that the information set out in the HRA and the AECOM report is sufficient and that the conclusions drawn in both are supported?

The parties agree that in light of the *High Court judgement in Wealden District Council v Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Lewes District Council and the South Downs National Park Authority [2017] EWHC 351 (Admin) dated 20 March 2017*, additional information as set out below should be included in the next iteration of the SIR HRA, to ensure that the effects of the proposed SIR housing provision and distribution on Breckland SPA alone and in-combination with other plans and projects have been robustly considered in relation to air quality.

An analysis of the adopted 2010 Forest Heath Core Strategy (CD: B57) and it's accompanying HRA (CD: D13) should be included with the 'other plans' in Appendix 1 of the HRA to the SIR. This will include a systematic consideration of all the types of effect it identified other than from the development proposed by Policy CS7 and the potential for each to act in-combination with the effects identified in the HRA of the SIR and will be included in the further iteration of the HRA at the modification stage.

The February 2017 AECOM air quality report (CD:C15) will be updated to include additional air quality modelling and analysis of those links that were originally dismissed because the change in flows due to the plan was less than 1,000 AADT. This additional work is for completeness and is not expected to change the assessment since by definition the impact of the plan on these links will be less than the links that have already been assessed and concluded to have no likely significant effects.

Signed on behalf of Forest Heath DC

Marie Smith
Planning Strategy Service Manager



Signed on behalf of Natural England

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Shapland' with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Francesca Shapland
Lead Adviser, Planning and Conservation
Norfolk and Suffolk Team**