

Forest Heath District Council
Forward Planning Team
College Heath Road
Mildenhall
Bury St. Edmunds
IP28 7EY

Our ref: AC/2019/128432/01-L01
Your ref: SIR Addendum
Date: 21 June 2019

Dear Sir/Madam

FOREST HEATH LOCAL PLAN FURTHER CONSULTATIONS FOREST HEATH DISTRICT COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLANNING TEAM WEST SUFFOLK HOUSE WESTERN WAY BURY ST EDMUNDS IP33 3YU

Thank you for your consultation.

We have reviewed the following document:

- Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Single Issue Review of Forest Heath Core Strategy Policy CS7 Overall Housing Provision and Distribution, prepared by LUC, April 2019

The report states that the Environment Agency (EA) can address unsustainable abstraction through the Restoring Sustainable Abstraction programme (RSA). The report should also mention that the EA can also address any unsustainable abstraction for public water supply through the AMP (Asset Management Plan) programme. Various schemes have been put forward to AMP 7 (2020-2025) for the water companies to ensure failing waterbodies achieve good status under the Water Framework Directive by 2027. It is worth checking that the water company can supply the proposed developments with a sustainable source of water. There are sustainability issues in the catchment due to the risk of deterioration of Water Framework Directive targets.

The information provided about the RSA schemes in Table 5.7 needs updating. All three projects have now been completed:

- Chippenham Fen - Habitats Directive Review of Consents Programme completed 2015. No licence changes but existing support scheme enhanced and on site water level management undertaken.
- Lakenheath Pools Fen - RSA investigation completed 2018. Surface water level management undertaken and conditions added to surface water licenses to maintain residual water level.
- Cavenham & Icklingham Heath - RSA investigation completed 2019. No licence changes necessary.

As the above projects have concluded that no licence changes are necessary we agree with the conclusion that abstraction within existing licence limits is acceptable and will

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not impact negatively on the conservation sites. However, any new consents/changes to existing consents that have a mechanism to impact a water dependent site will need assessing and may not be granted if impact is shown.

We agree with the water quality conclusions ("Results" on pages 56 and 57) of the new HRA document.

We hope that this information is of assistance to you. If you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Elizabeth Mugova
Sustainable Places Planning Advisor
East Anglia Area

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Direct e-mail planning.brampton@environment-agency.gov.uk .

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