

SA7: Cedars, Brighton Road - Index by ID Number

ID	Respondent	Organisation	BehalfOf	Respondent Category	Participate
622	Ms T Hurley	Savills	Thames Water	Statutory Consultee	<input type="checkbox"/>
642	Ms C Tester	High Weald AONB Unit		Statutory Consultee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
710	Mr N Burns	Natural England		Statutory Consultee	<input type="checkbox"/>

Site Allocations DPD: Regulation 19 Consultation Response

Policy: SA7

ID: 622

Response Ref: Reg19/622/4

Respondent: Ms T Hurley

Organisation: Savills

On Behalf Of: Thames Water

Category: Statutory Consultee

Appear at Examination? x

From: Natasha Hurley <tasha.hurley@savills.com> on behalf of Thames Water Planning Policy <ThamesWaterPlanningPolicy@savills.com>
Sent: 22 September 2020 08:52
To: ldfconsultation
Cc: Devcon Team; David Wilson; Nicky.Mchugh@thameswater.co.uk; Mark Dickinson; 'John Georgoulas'
Subject: Mid Sussex District Council – Site Allocations DPD (Regulation 19) Consultation - RESPONSE ON BEHALF OF THAMES WATER UTILITIES LTD
Attachments: Mid Sussex sites table sep 2020.xls; 20.09.22 L DW Mid Sussex Site Allocations DPD.PDF
Categories: SiteDPD

Dear Sir/ Madam

Please find our response to the above attached on behalf of Thames Water.

Regards,
Tasha

Tasha Hurley
Planning Administrator
Planning

Savills, Ground Floor, Hawker House , 5-6 Napier Court , Napier Road , Reading RG1 8BW



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Before printing, think about the environment



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By Email to: LDFconsultation@midsussex.gov.uk



David Wilson



thameswaterplanningpolicy@savills.com



0118 9520 500

22 September 2020

Mid Sussex District Council – Site Allocations DPD (Regulation 19) Consultation

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for allowing Thames Water Utilities Ltd (Thames Water) to comment on the above.

As you will be aware, Thames Water Utilities Ltd (Thames Water) are the statutory sewerage undertaker for a small part of the Mid Sussex District (around Crawley) and are hence a “specific consultation body” in accordance with the Town & Country Planning (Local Planning) Regulations 2012. We have the following comments on the consultation document:

General Comments on Wastewater and Sewerage Infrastructure

Thames Water are the waste water service provider for a small part of Mid Sussex District (northern part around Crawley). This mainly encompasses Pease Pottage and Copthorne. Crawley Down and Turners Hill also drain into the Thames Water catchment via Southern Water infrastructure and so their comments will also need to be sought. Thames Water do not supply potable Water to Mid Sussex.

Thames Water seeks to co-operate and maintain a good working relationship with local planning authorities in its area and to provide the support they need with regards to the provision of sewerage/wastewater [and water supply] treatment infrastructure.

Wastewater/sewerage [and water supply] infrastructure is essential to any development. Failure to ensure that any required upgrades to the infrastructure network are delivered alongside development could result in adverse impacts in the form of internal and external sewer flooding and pollution of land and water courses and/or low water pressure.

A key sustainability objective for the preparation of Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans should be for new development to be co-ordinated with the infrastructure it demands and to take into account the capacity of existing infrastructure. Paragraph 20 of the revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), February 2019, states: “*Strategic policies should set out an overall strategy for the pattern, scale and quality of development, and make sufficient provision for... infrastructure for waste management, water supply, wastewater...*”

Paragraph 28 relates to non-strategic policies and states: *“Non-strategic policies should be used by local planning authorities and communities to set out more detailed policies for specific areas, neighbourhoods or types of development. This can include allocating sites, the provision of infrastructure...”*

Paragraph 26 of the revised NPPF goes on to state: *“Effective and on-going joint working between strategic policy-making authorities and relevant bodies is integral to the production of a positively prepared and justified strategy. In particular, joint working should help to determine where additional infrastructure is necessary....”*

The web based National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) includes a section on ‘water supply, wastewater and water quality’ and sets out that Local Plans should be the focus for ensuring that investment plans of water and sewerage/wastewater companies align with development needs. The introduction to this section also sets out that *“Adequate water and wastewater infrastructure is needed to support sustainable development”* (Paragraph: 001, Reference ID: 34-001-20140306).

Paragraph 41 of the NPPF 2019 sets out that: *“The more issues that can be resolved at pre-application stage, including the need to deliver improvements in infrastructure and affordable housing, the greater the benefits....”* The NPPG also provides detailed guidance in relation to ‘Water supply, wastewater and water quality – considerations for planning applications’.

It is important to consider the net increase in water and wastewater demand to serve the development and also any impact that developments may have off site, further down the network. The new Local Plan should therefore seek to ensure that there is adequate water and wastewater infrastructure to serve all new developments. Thames Water will work with developers and local authorities to ensure that any necessary infrastructure reinforcement is delivered ahead of the occupation of development. Where there are infrastructure constraints, it is important not to underestimate the time required to deliver necessary infrastructure. For example: local network upgrades take around 18 months and Sewage Treatment & Water Treatment Works upgrades can take 3-5 years.

The provision of water treatment (both wastewater treatment and water supply) is met by Thames Water’s asset plans and from the 1st April 2018 network improvements will be from infrastructure charges per new dwelling.

As from 1st April 2018, the way Thames Water and all other water and wastewater companies charge for new connections has changed. The changes mean that more of Thames Water’s charges will be fixed and published, rather than provided on application, enabling you to estimate your costs without needing to contact us. The services affected include new water connections, lateral drain connections, water mains and sewers (requisitions), traffic management costs, income offsetting and infrastructure charges.

Thames Water therefore recommends that developers engage with them at the earliest opportunity (in line with paragraph 26 of the revised NPPF) to establish the following:

- The developments demand for Sewage/Wastewater Treatment and network infrastructure both on and off site and can it be met; and
- The surface water drainage requirements and flood risk of the development both on and off site and can it be met.

Thames Water offer a free Pre-Planning service which confirms if capacity exists to serve the development or if upgrades are required for potable water, waste water and surface water requirements. Details on Thames Water's free pre planning service are available at:

<https://developers.thameswater.co.uk/Developing-a-large-site/Planning-your-development/Water-and-wastewater-capacity>

In light of the above comments and Government guidance we consider that the DPD/Local Plan should include a specific policy on the key issue of the provision of sewerage/wastewater [and water supply] infrastructure to service development. This is necessary because it will not be possible to identify all of the water/sewerage infrastructure required over the plan period due to the way water companies are regulated and plan in 5 year periods (Asset Management Plans or AMPs). We recommend the Local Plan include the following policy/supporting text:

PROPOSED NEW WATER SUPPLY/WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE POLICY TEXT:

“Where appropriate, planning permission for developments which result in the need for off-site upgrades, will be subject to conditions to ensure the occupation is aligned with the delivery of necessary infrastructure upgrades.”

“The Local Planning Authority will seek to ensure that there is adequate water and wastewater infrastructure to serve all new developments. Developers are encouraged to contact the water/waste water company as early as possible to discuss their development proposals and intended delivery programme to assist with identifying any potential water and wastewater network reinforcement requirements. Where there is a capacity constraint the Local Planning Authority will, where appropriate, apply phasing conditions to any approval to ensure that any necessary infrastructure upgrades are delivered ahead of the occupation of the relevant phase of development.”

Comments on Proposed Development Sites

The information contained within the DPD will be of significant value to Thames Water as we prepare for the provision of future infrastructure.

The attached table provides Thames Water's site specific comments from desktop assessments on sewerage/waste water network and waste water treatment infrastructure in relation to the proposed sites, but more detailed modelling may be required to refine the requirements.

Early engagement between the developers and Thames Water would be beneficial to understand:

- What drainage requirements are required on and off site
- Clarity on what loading/flow from the development is anticipated

It should be noted that in the event of an upgrade to our sewerage network assets being required, up to three years lead in time is usual to enable for the planning and delivery of the upgrade. As a developer has the automatic right to connect to our sewer network under the Water Industry Act we may also request a drainage planning condition if a network upgrade is required to ensure the infrastructure is in place ahead of occupation of the development. This will avoid adverse environmental impacts such as sewer flooding and / or water pollution.

Waste-water/Sewage Treatment Works upgrades take longer to design and build. Implementing new technologies and the construction of a major treatment works extension or new treatment works could take up to ten years to plan, design, obtain approvals and build.

As set out in our previous response to the Local Plan, Thames Water offers a Free pre planning service where developer can engage Thames water to understand what if any upgrades will be needed to serve the development where and when.

Link here > <https://developers.thameswater.co.uk/Developing-a-large-site/Planning-your-development/Water-and-wastewater-capacity>

We recommend developers attach the information we provide to their planning applications so that the Council and the wider public are assured water and waste matters for the development are being addressed. Please also refer to detailed comments above in relation to the infrastructure section.

Where developers do not engage with Thames Water prior to submitting their application, this will more likely lead to the recommendation that a Grampian condition is attached to any planning permission to resolve any infrastructure issues.

We trust the above is satisfactory, but please do not hesitate to contact David Wilson on the above number if you have any queries.

Yours faithfully

Thames Water Utilities Ltd

<http://corporate/dts>

All Sites for Development Plan Mid Sussex - DC Planning Policy - Site Allocations DPD

Created Date	Site ID	Site Name	ServiceType	Catchment Planner - Water	Responded? - Water	Catchment Planner - Waste	Responded? - Waste	Net Gain to System (l/day)	Net Foul Water Increase to System (l/s)	Net Property Equivalent Increase - Waste	Net Increase in Demand (l/day)	Net Increase in Peak Demand (l/s)	Net Property Equivalent Increase - Water
12/08/2020	63391	SA22 - Land north of Burleigh Lane, Crawley Down	Waste		N/A	Victor Alonso	Yes	0	0	0	0	0	0

Standard Paragraphs:

This site falls outside of Thames Water's wastewater supply boundary.

Internal Comments:

None

Created Date	Site ID	Site Name	ServiceType	Catchment Planner - Water	Responded? - Water	Catchment Planner - Waste	Responded? - Waste	Net Gain to System (l/day)	Net Foul Water Increase to System (l/s)	Net Property Equivalent Increase - Waste	Net Increase in Demand (l/day)	Net Increase in Peak Demand (l/s)	Net Property Equivalent Increase - Water
12/08/2020	63401	SA4: Land North of the A264 at J10 of M23	Waste		N/A	Victor Alonso	Yes	0	0	0	0	0	0

Standard Paragraphs:

On the information available to date we do not envisage infrastructure concerns regarding wastewater networks in relation to this development/s. It is recommended that the Developer and the Local Planning Authority liaise with Thames Water at the earliest opportunity to advise of the developments phasing. Please contact Thames Water Development Planning, either by email Devcon.team@thameswater.co.uk tel:

Internal Comments:

None

Created Date	Site ID	Site Name	ServiceType	Catchment Planner - Water	Responded? - Water	Catchment Planner - Waste	Responded? - Waste	Net Gain to System (l/day)	Net Foul Water Increase to System (l/s)	Net Property Equivalent Increase - Waste	Net Increase in Demand (l/day)	Net Increase in Peak Demand (l/s)	Net Property Equivalent Increase - Water
12/08/2020	63402	SA7 - Cedars, (Former Crawley Forest School) Brighton Road, Pease Pottage, Crawley,RH11 9AD	Waste		N/A	Victor Alonso	Yes	0	0	0	0	0	0

Standard Paragraphs:

On the information available to date we do not envisage infrastructure concerns regarding wastewater networks in relation to this development/s. It is recommended that the Developer and the Local Planning Authority liaise with Thames Water at the earliest opportunity to advise of the developments phasing. Please contact Thames Water Development Planning, either by email Devcon.team@thameswater.co.uk tel:

Internal Comments:

None

Created Date	Site ID	Site Name	ServiceType	Catchment Planner - Water	Responded? - Water	Catchment Planner - Waste	Responded? - Waste	Net Gain to System (l/day)	Net Foul Water Increase to System (l/s)	Net Property Equivalent Increase - Waste	Net Increase in Demand (l/day)	Net Increase in Peak Demand (l/s)	Net Property Equivalent Increase - Water
12/08/2020	63405	SA8: Pease Pottage Nurseries, Brighton Road, Pease Pottage	Waste		N/A	Victor Alonso	Yes	0	0	0	0	0	0

Standard Paragraphs:

On the information available to date we do not envisage infrastructure concerns regarding wastewater networks in relation to this development/s. It is recommended that the Developer and the Local Planning Authority liaise with Thames Water at the earliest opportunity to advise of the developments phasing. Please contact Thames Water Development Planning, either by email Devcon.team@thameswater.co.uk tel:

Internal Comments:

None

Site Allocations DPD: Regulation 19 Consultation Response

Policy: SA7

ID: 642

Response Ref: Reg19/642/2

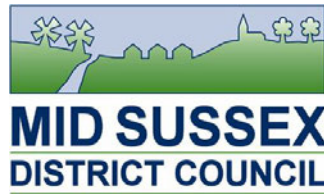
Respondent: Ms C Tester

Organisation: High Weald AONB Unit

On Behalf Of:

Category: Statutory Consultee

Appear at Examination? ✓



Site Allocations Development Plan Document Regulation 19 Submission Draft Consultation Form

The District Council is seeking representations on the Submission Draft Site Allocations Development Plan Document, which supports the strategic framework for development in Mid Sussex until 2031.

The Site Allocations DPD, has four main aims, which are:

- i) to allocate sufficient housing sites to address the residual necessary to meet the identified housing requirement for the district up to 2031 in accordance with the Spatial Strategy set out in the District Plan;
- ii) to allocate sufficient employment land to meet the residual need and in line with policy requirements set out in District Plan Policy DP1: Sustainable Economic Development;
- iii) to allocate a site for a Science and Technology Park west of Burgess Hill in line with policy requirements set out in District Plan Policy DP1: Sustainable Economic Development, and
- iv) to set out additional Strategic Policies necessary to deliver sustainable development.

All comments submitted will be considered by a Planning Inspector, appointed by the Secretary of State, at a public examination to determine whether the plan is sound.

The Site Allocations DPD is available to view at:

www.midsussex.gov.uk/planning-building/development-plan-documents/

A number of documents have been prepared to provide evidence for the Site Allocations DPD and these can be viewed on the Council's website at the above address.

Paper copies will also be at the Council offices (see address below) and your local library and available to view if the buildings are able to open during the consultation period.

Please return to Mid Sussex District Council by midnight on 28th September 2020

How can I respond to this consultation?

Online: A secure e-form is available online at:

www.midsussex.gov.uk/planning-building/development-plan-documents/

The online form has been prepared following the guidelines and standard model form provided by the Planning Inspectorate. To enable the consultation responses to be processed efficiently, it would be helpful to submit a response using the online form, however, it is not necessary to do so. Consultation responses can also be submitted by:

Post: Mid Sussex District Council
Planning Policy
Oaklands Road
Haywards Heath
West Sussex
RH16 1SS

E-mail: LDFconsultation@midsussex.gov.uk

A guidance note accompanies this form and can be used to help fill this form in.

Part A – Your Details (You only need to complete this once)

1. Personal Details

Title	<input type="text" value="Ms"/>
First Name	<input type="text" value="Claire"/>
Last Name	<input type="text" value="Tester"/>
Job Title (where relevant)	<input type="text" value="Planning Advisor"/>
Organisation (where relevant)	<input type="text" value="High Weald AONB Partnership"/>
Respondent Ref. No. (if known)	<input type="text"/>
On behalf of (where relevant)	<input type="text"/>
Address Line 1	<input type="text" value="Woodland Enterprise Centre"/>
Line 2	<input type="text" value="Hastings Road"/>
Line 3	<input type="text" value="Flimwell"/>
Line 4	<input type="text" value="East Sussex"/>
Post Code	<input type="text" value="RH7 5PR"/>
Telephone Number	<input type="text" value="01424 723018"/>
E-mail Address	<input type="text" value="Claire.test@highweald.org"/>



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The information gathered from this form will only be used for the purposes described and any personal details given will not be used for any other purpose.

Part B – Your Comments

You can find an explanation of the terms used in the guidance note. Please fill this part of the form out for each representation you make.

Name or Organisation:

High Weald AONB Partnership

3a. Does your comment relate to:

Site
Allocations
DPD

☒

Sustainability
Appraisal

☐

Habitats Regulations
Assessment

☐

Community
Involvement
Plan

☐

Equalities
Impact
Assessment

☐

Draft Policies
Maps

☐

3b. To which part does this representation relate?

Paragraph

Policy SA

SA 7

Draft Policies Map

4. Do you consider the Site Allocations DPD is:

4a. In accordance with legal and procedural requirements; including the duty to cooperate.

Yes ☒

No ☐

4b. Sound

Yes ☐

No ☒

5. With regard to each test, do you consider the Plan to be sound or unsound:

	Sound	Unsound
(1) Positively prepared	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(2) Justified	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(3) Effective	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(4) Consistent with national policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

6a. If you wish to support the legal compliance or soundness of the Plan, please use this box to set out your comments. If you selected '**No**' to either part of question **4** please also complete question **6b**.

6b. Please give details of why you consider the Site Allocations DPD is not legally compliant or is unsound. Please be as precise as possible.

The requirement under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act and the NPPF is that development should conserve and enhance the AONB, not just minimise impacts on it.

7. Please set out what change(s) you consider necessary to make the Site Allocations DPD legally compliant or sound, having regard to the reason you have identified at question 5 above where this relates to soundness.

You will need to say why this change will make the Plan legally compliant or sound. It will be helpful if you are able to put forward your suggested revised wording of any policy or text. Please be as precise as possible.

Please can you make the following amendments in red – **additions in bold** and deletions ~~crossed through~~.

Under 'Site Specific Requirements' second bullet point

"including a comprehensive landscape scheme in order to **conserve and enhance the landscape** of ~~minimise impact on~~ the AONB".

Please note your representation should cover succinctly all the information, evidence and supporting information necessary to support/justify the representation and the suggested change, as there will not normally be a subsequent opportunity to make further representations based on the original representation at publication stage.

After this stage, further submissions will be only at the request of the Inspector, based on the matters and issues he/she identifies for examination.

8. If your representation is seeking a change, do you consider it necessary to attend and give evidence at the hearing part of the examination? (tick below as appropriate)

☐

No, I do not wish to participate at the oral examination

☒

Yes, I wish to participate at the oral examination

9. If you wish to participate at the oral part of the examination, please outline why you consider this to be necessary:

To ensure that development proposals in the DPD conserve and enhance the High Weald AONB.

Please note the Inspector will determine the most appropriate procedure to adopt to hear those who have indicated that they wish to participate at the oral part of the examination.

10. Please notify me when:

(i) The Plan has been submitted for Examination

☒


(ii) The publication of the recommendations from the Examination

☒

(iii) The Site Allocations DPD is adopted

☒

Signature:



Date:

21.09.2020

Thank you for taking time to respond to this consultation

Site Allocations DPD: Regulation 19 Consultation Response

Policy: SA7

ID: 710

Response Ref: Reg19/710/1

Respondent: Mr N Burns

Organisation: Natural England

On Behalf Of:

Category: Statutory Consultee

Appear at Examination? x

Date: 28 September 2020
Our ref: 324095



Planning Policy
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands
Oaklands Road
Haywards Heath
West Sussex
RH16 1SS

Customer Services
Hornbeam House
Crewe Business Park
Electra Way
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 6GJ

T 0300 060 3900

BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Sir / Madam

Planning consultation: Mid Sussex District Council Site Allocations DPD - Regulation 19 Consultation

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 03 August 2020 which was received by Natural England on the same day.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Natural England welcomes the approach taken by your authority to consult with Natural England at various stages in the preparation of the Site Allocations Development Plan Document. We are pleased that our engagement has resulted in our comments/concerns being addressed in this version of the plan. In particular, we welcome the positive engagement by Mid Sussex District Council with both Natural England and the High Weald AONB Unit in the assessment of the Regulation 19 proposed site allocations within the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

From this assessment, we recognise and welcome that a conclusion has been reached that none of the proposed site allocations (Policies SA7, SA8, SA25, SA26, SA27, SA28, SA29, SA32) constitutes major development within the AONB.

Our comments on your Regulation 19 Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD) Site allocations and development policies, followed by general comments are as follows.

Comments on specific allocations

SA 7 - Cedars, Brighton Road, Pease Pottage

We support the requirement of this allocation to undertake a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) to consider potential impacts on the special qualities of the High Weald AONB.

SA 8 - Pease Pottage Nurseries, Brighton Road, Pease Pottage

We support the requirement of this allocation to undertake a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) to consider potential impacts on the special qualities of the High Weald AONB.

We also support the requirements regarding nearby ancient woodland in line with Natural England's [standing advice](#).

SA 18 - Former East Grinstead Police Station, College Lane, East Grinstead

We recommend a requirement be included for this development to contribute to the existing strategic solution in accordance with District Plan Policy **DP17: Ashdown Forest SPA and SAC**.

SA 19 – Land south of Crawley Down Road, Felbridge

We recommend a requirement be included for this development to contribute to the existing strategic solution in accordance with District Plan Policy **DP17: Ashdown Forest SPA and SAC**.

We support the requirement of this allocation to provide suitable SuDS and greenspace to address potential impacts on the Hedgecourt Lake SSSI.

SA 20 – Land south and west of Imberhorne Upper School, Imberhorne Lane, East Grinstead

We support the requirements of this allocation to provide an appropriately managed strategic Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) to mitigate increased recreational disturbance on Ashdown Forest Special Protection Area (SPA) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC); such a SANG proposal must be considered in accordance with District Plan Policy **DP17: Ashdown Forest SPA and SAC**.

We also support the requirement for potential impacts of development on Hedgecourt Lake SSSI to be understood and adequately mitigated.

We also support the requirements regarding nearby ancient woodland in line with Natural England's [standing advice](#).

SA 22 – Land north of Burleigh Lane, Crawley Down

We recommend a requirement be included for this development to contribute to the existing strategic solution in accordance with District Plan Policy **DP17: Ashdown Forest SPA and SAC**.

SA 25 – Land west of Selsfield Road, Ardingly

We recommend a requirement be included for this development to contribute to the existing strategic solution in accordance with District Plan Policy **DP17: Ashdown Forest SPA and SAC**.

We support the requirements of this allocation to undertake a LVIA to consider potential impacts on the special qualities of the High Weald AONB.

SA 26 – Land south of Hammerwood Road, Ashurst Wood have

We recommend a requirement be included for this development to contribute to the existing strategic solution in accordance with District Plan Policy **DP17: Ashdown Forest SPA and SAC**.

We support the requirements of this allocation to undertake a LVIA to consider potential impacts on the special qualities of the High Weald AONB.

SA 27 – Land at St. Martin Close, Handcross

We support the requirements of this allocation to undertake a LVIA to consider potential impacts on the special qualities of the High Weald AONB.

SA 28 – Land South of The Old Police House, Birchgrove Road, Horsted Keynes

We recommend a requirement be included for this development to contribute to existing strategic solution in accordance with District Plan Policy **DP17: Ashdown Forest SPA and SAC**.

We support the requirements of this allocation to undertake a LVIA to consider potential impacts on the special qualities of the High Weald AONB.

SA 29 – Land south of St. Stephens Church, Hamsland, Horsted Keynes

We recommend a requirement be included for this development to contribute to the existing strategic solution in accordance with District Plan Policy **DP17: Ashdown Forest SPA and SAC**.

We support the requirements of this allocation to undertake a LVIA to consider potential impacts on the special qualities of the High Weald AONB.

SA 32 – Withypitts Farm, Selsfield Road, Turners Hill

We recommend a requirement be included for this development to contribute to the existing strategic solution in accordance with District Plan Policy **DP17: Ashdown Forest SPA and SAC**.

We support the requirements of this allocation to undertake a LVIA to consider potential impacts on the special qualities of the High Weald AONB.

Comments on Development Policies

SA38: Air Quality

Whilst we support the requirement of this policy for applicants to demonstrate there is not an unacceptable impact on air quality resulting from their proposals we recommend the following change in wording to strengthen the protection of designated sites.

*“Development proposals that are likely to have an impact on local air quality, including those in or within relevant proximity to existing or potential Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA)s or **designated nature conservation areas sensitive to changes in air quality**, will need to demonstrate measures/ mitigation that are incorporated into the design to minimise any impacts associated with air quality.*

We recognise there is specific wording established for air quality impacts for Ashdown Forest and this suggestion is additional for any other relevant sites which could be potentially impacted by changes to air quality.

General comments

Biodiversity net gain

We strongly support the requirements of all allocations to ensure there is a net gain to biodiversity as well as the general principle for site allocations to: *“Conserve and enhance areas of wildlife value and ensure there is a net gain to biodiversity, using the most up-to-date version of the Biodiversity Metric. Avoid any loss of biodiversity through ecological protection and enhancement, and good design. Where it is not possible, mitigate and as a last resort compensate for any loss. Achieve a net gain in biodiversity (measured in accordance with Government guidance and legislation), for example, by incorporating new natural habitats, appropriate to the context of the site, into development and designing buildings with integral bat boxes and bird nesting opportunities, green/brown roofs and green walling, in appropriate circumstances in accordance with District Plan Policy”.*

We would still however recommend that your DPD should include requirements to monitor biodiversity net gain. This should include indicators to demonstrate the amount and type of gain provided through development. The indicators should be as specific as possible to help build an evidence base to take forward for future reviews of the plan, for example the total number and type of biodiversity units created, the number of developments achieving biodiversity net gains and a record of on-site and off-site contributions.

We recommend that Mid Sussex District Council works with local partners, including the Local Environmental Record Centre and Wildlife Trusts, to share data and consider requirements for long term habitat monitoring. Monitoring requirements should be clear on what is expected from landowners who may be delivering biodiversity net gains on behalf of developers. This will be particularly important for strategic housing allocations, and providing as much information on monitoring upfront as possible will help to streamline the project stage.

Water efficiency

Your Authority contains areas of Serious Water Stress as designated by the Environment Agency. For developments in Southern Water Services drinking water supply area Natural England recommends water efficiency policies should be developed to support Southern Water's "Target 100".

This target, of 100 litres per person per day by 2040 has been identified by Southern Water to avoid the need for water supply options that are likely to damage biodiversity or/and effect protected landscapes. For development in other companies' supply areas Natural England supports the Environment Agency's recommendation of a maximum of 110 litres per person per day.

Water efficiency measures will help reduce the current impact of water resources on the natural environment and thereby contribute to more resilient landscapes and seas, one of the aims in Natural England's 'Building partnerships for nature's recovery: Action Plan 2020/21'¹. Reducing the water we use will also contribute to the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan aspirations for clean and plentiful water and to restore sustainable abstraction.

Soil

Soil is a finite resource, and fulfils many roles that are beneficial to society. As a component of the natural environment, it is important that soils are protected and used sustainably.

The DPD should recognise that development (soil sealing) has a major and usually irreversible adverse impact on soils. Mitigation should aim to minimise soil disturbance and to retain as many ecosystem services as possible through careful soil management during the construction process.

Soils of high environmental value (e.g. wetland and carbon stores such as peatland) should also be considered to contribute to ecological connectivity, as such these soils should be conserved and protected from negative impacts.

We recommend that allocation policies refer to the [Defra Code of practice for the sustainable use of soils on construction sites](#).

Comments on HRA

Natural England notes that your authority, as competent authority, has undertaken an appropriate assessment of this DPD in accordance with regulation 63 of the Conservation of Species and Habitats Regulations 2017 (as amended). Natural England is a statutory consultee on the appropriate assessment stage of the Habitats Regulations Assessment process.

Your appropriate assessment concludes that your authority is able to ascertain that the implementation of this DPD will not result in adverse effects on the integrity of any of European sites in question.

Having considered the assessment, and the measures proposed to mitigate for all identified adverse effects that could potentially occur as a result of the proposal, chiefly changes in air quality and increased recreational disturbance, Natural England advises that we concur with the assessment conclusions, providing that all required mitigation measures are appropriately secured in any future planning permissions given.

Comments on SA

We have no specific comments to make regarding our statutory remit and your sustainability appraisal.

If you have any queries relating to the advice in this letter please contact me on 07554226006 OR 02080266551.

¹ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/906289/natural-england-action-plan-2020-21.pdf

Should the DPD change significantly, please consult us again.

Yours faithfully

Nathan Burns
Area Team 14 - Kent and Sussex