

## Justification

Under policy SA37 in Appendix 9 of the council's Statement of Consultation, the council state '*Thesafeguarded areas shown in the map accompanying SA37 are indicative and a number of options are being investigated. The final route option is still to be determined; detailed designed work will be carried out to inform this.*' However the map clearly shows a number of specific routes rather than just a general area for safeguarding. SWT is concerned that the specificity of the safeguarded area may not allow significant harm to biodiversity to be avoided as encourage by the 'mitigation hierarchy' as set out in NPPF paragraph 175. We therefore propose the following amendments to the policy to ensure that there is clarity and soundness in relation to the natural environment

## Proposed amendment to policy wording

### **Policy SA37 Burgess Hill /Haywards Heath Multifunctional Network**

*The Council continues to support the delivery of a dedicated multifunctional network, within the lifetime of this plan and will work with key stakeholders to ensure opportunities to deliver the scheme are prioritised and maximised.*

*Land is safeguarded to support the delivery of the Burgess Hill/ Haywards Heath multifunctional network.*

*The area shown on the Policies Map illustrates where **SA37** will apply; the precise alignment for the scheme **should be carefully designed having a clear consideration of matters such as biodiversity and landscape, in order to avoid impacts on those features.** ~~will be informed by detailed design work.~~*

*Any proposals for development that may reasonably be considered to impact the delivery of the multifunctional network (as shown on the Policies Map) will be required to demonstrate the proposal would not harm delivery of the scheme.*

*Planning permission will not be granted for development that would prejudice the delivery or effective operation of the proposed multifunctional network.*