

Date: 14 January 2019  
Our ref: 266939  
Your ref: Merton Local Plan SA SEA Scoping & HRA



Ms Ann Maria Clarke  
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Dear Ms Clarke

**Merton Draft Local Plan: SEA/SA scoping report and Habitat Regulation Assessment**

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated and received by Natural England on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018.

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 does not consider that this SEA/SA scoping report and Habitat Regulation Assessment poses any likely risk or opportunity in relation to our statutory purpose, and so does not wish to comment on this consultation.**

The lack of comment from Natural England should not be interpreted as a statement that there are no impacts on the natural environment. Other bodies and individuals may wish to make comments that might help the Local Planning Authority (LPA) to fully take account of any environmental risks and opportunities relating to this document.

If you disagree with our assessment of this proposal as low risk, or should the proposal be amended in a way which significantly affects its impact on the natural environment, then in accordance with Section 4 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, please consult Natural England again.

Yours sincerely

Sharon Jenkins  
Consultations Team