

Date: 30 July 2013  
Our ref: 91261  
Your ref:



Ms Ann Maria Clarke  
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**BY EMAIL ONLY**

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Dear Ms Clarke

### **Rainbow Industrial Estate Planning Brief – SEA Screening Statement**

Thank you for your correspondence in respect of the above consultation document, seeking the views and comments of Natural England.

Natural England is the Government agency that works to conserve and enhance biodiversity and landscapes, promote access to the natural environment, and contribute to the way natural resources are managed so that they can be enjoyed now and by future generations.

The Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment cover the issues and topics that Natural England would expect to see in such a document.

There is reference to appropriate legislation within the Supplementary Planning Document, and there is reference to access to nature and green space as well as opportunities to increase biodiversity potential for the site.

Subject to the above, Natural England does not wish to make any substantive comments, but offers the following information for advice.

#### **Protected species**

Where there is a reasonable likelihood of a protected species being present and affected by the proposed development, the LPA should request survey information from the applicant before determining the application (Paragraph 99 Circular 06/05)<sup>1</sup>.

Natural England has produced standing advice, which is available on our website [Natural England Standing Advice](#) to help the local planning authorities to better understand the impact of particular developments on protected or BAP species should they be identified as an issue. The standing advice also sets out when, following receipt of survey information, the local planning authority should undertake further consultation with Natural England.

#### **Local wildlife sites**

The Council has identified a local wildlife site, Site of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI) adjacent railway land, or Local Nature Reserve (LNR) the authority should ensure it has sufficient information to fully understand the impact of the proposal on the local wildlife site, and the importance of this in relation to development plan policies, before it determines the application.

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<sup>1</sup> Paragraph 98 and 99 of ODPM Circular 06/2005.

### **Biodiversity enhancements**

Applications may provide opportunities to incorporate features into the design which are beneficial to wildlife, such as the incorporation of roosting opportunities for bats or the installation of bird nest boxes. Local Planning Authorities should consider securing measures to enhance the biodiversity of the site from the applicants. This is in accordance with Paragraph 118 of the National Planning Policy Framework. Additionally, we would draw your attention to Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006) which states that '*Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity*'. Section 40(3) of the same Act also states that '*conserving biodiversity includes, in relation to a living organism or type of habitat, restoring or enhancing a population or habitat*'.

### **Landscape enhancements**

Applications may also provide opportunities to enhance the character and local distinctiveness of the surrounding natural and built environment; use natural resources more sustainably; and bring benefits for the local community, for example through green space provision and access to and contact with nature. Landscape characterisation and townscape assessments, and associated sensitivity and capacity assessments provide tools for planners and developers to consider new development and ensure that it makes a positive contribution in terms of design, form and location, to the character and functions of the landscape and avoids any unacceptable impacts.

We really value your feedback to help us improve the service we offer. We have attached a feedback form to this letter and welcome any comments you might have about our service.

For clarification of any points in this letter, please contact David Hammond on 0300 060 1373. For any new consultations or issues, please contact [consultations@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk).

Yours sincerely

**David Hammond**  
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