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19 June 2008
LDF Submission
PINS/M2460/429/4&6
John Wright
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For the Attention of Steve Carnaby

Dear Sirs

**LEICESTERSHIRE AND LEICESTER WASTE CORE STRATEGY AND
DEVELOPMENT CONTROL POLICIES DPD SUBMISSION**

**LEICESTERSHIRE MINERALS CORE STRATEGY AND DEVELOPMENT
CONTROL POLICIES DPD SUBMISSION**

Further to your letter dated 25th June 2008 and our subsequent telephone conversations we confirm that during the screening process consideration was given to Natura 2000 sites located outside of the County Boundary of Leicestershire. For clarification please find enclosed additional text which will form an addendum to the Habitats Risk Assessment report.

We trust that the information answers your queries. As you will see we have gained agreement from Natural England regarding this issue.

Yours sincerely

John Wright
Minerals and Waste Policy Manager
On behalf of the Director of Community Services

cc A Collins, Natural England

Addendum to the Habitats Risk Assessment (HRA) dated June 2008.

Consideration of the Natura 2000 sites relevant to the Framework Area

During the initial stage of the screening process Natura 2000 sites within the framework area and beyond were considered. Based on their broad locations it was considered that three Natura 2000 sites may need further consideration. The Natura 2000 sites are:

Site Name	Location	Reason for designation
Ensor's Pool SAC	Warwickshire	This flooded 1 ha marl pit holds a very large population of white clawed crayfish, estimated at 50,000. Although crayfish plague outbreaks have occurred in the Midlands, this water body is isolated from river systems and is a good example of a 'refuge' site in an important part of the species' former range.
Rutland Water Special Protection Area (SPA) and RAMSAR Site	Rutland	The main habitats are open water and a mosaic of lagoons, reed-swamp, marsh, old meadows, scrub and woodland. The lagoon habitat is one of the most important areas for wintering waterfowl and the reservoir regularly supports internationally important numbers of gadwall and shoveler and nationally important numbers of ten other species of wildfowl.
River Mease SAC	Flows in Leicestershire, Derbyshire and Staffordshire	The river habitat is characterised by the abundance of water-crowfoots, where floating mats of these white-flowered species are characteristic of river channels in early to mid-summer. They may modify water flow, promote fine sediment deposition, and provide shelter and food for fish and invertebrate animals. A good example of a riverine population of spined loach and bullhead populations, White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish and habitat suitable for the otter

The location of the three sites together with the characteristics of the sites, the reasons for designation and the distance from the Framework Area were examined to determine whether the Core Strategies and Development Control Policies could have a significant effect on the Natura 2000 sites. As Ensor's Pool is isolated from river systems and is located approximately 5km from the boundary of Leicestershire it was considered that the Core Strategy and Development Control Policies are unlikely to result in a significant impact on the European Site.

Rutland Water is fed by the Rivers Nene and Welland. The River Welland rises in Market Harborough in Leicestershire. Based on the location of Rutland Water, the reason for its designation and that the policies in the Core Strategies do not specifically promote the development of sites on the eastern side of the county it is considered highly unlikely that the Core Strategy will result in impact on Rutland Water.

It was concluded that only the River Mease needed to be considered in the screening exercise to determine if an Appropriate Assessment was necessary.

The consultation exercises undertaken to date, including those with the appropriate agencies, have not raised any issues regarding this approach or any specific impacts that may affect any Natura 2000 sites in neighbouring framework areas.

From: Collins, Anna (NE) [Anna.Collins@naturalengland.org.uk]
Sent: 10 July 2008 16:04
To: Laura Cherry
Subject: RE: HRA for Leicester and Leicestershire Development Frameworks
Dear Laura,

I've read the addendum submitted earlier today (10 July 2008) and have no concerns with the content of it. Furthermore it does add clarity and show a process of screening sites both in and out of the assessment has been followed.

Regards,

Anna
Anna Collins
Planning and Biodiversity Advisor - Leicestershire
Natural England

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NG8 3SN

0115 900 5459

From: Laura Cherry [mailto:LCherry@leics.gov.uk]
Sent: 10 July 2008 11:28
To: Collins, Anna (NE)
Subject: HRA for Leicester and Leicestershire Development Frameworks
Importance: High

Anna

Further to our recent correspondence, please find attached an addendum to the agreed HRA which provides additional information in response to queries from the Inspector at PINS.

<<Addendum to HRA PINS letter.doc>>

I would be grateful if you could provide me with any comments you may have on the short document.

Thank you for your help.

Kind regards

Laura Cherry
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Planning Group
Leicestershire County Council
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