

# Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036 Examination

---

## **EXAM/49: Representation to the Proposed Main Modifications 2018 Habitats Regulations Assessment Consultation**

Huntingdonshire District Council  
February 2018

## Comment

<b>Consultee</b>	Janet Nuttall (34468)
<b>Email Address</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Company / Organisation</b>	Natural England
<b>Address</b>	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
<b>Event Name</b>	Habitats Regulations Assessment
<b>Comment by</b>	Natural England ( Janet Nuttall - 34468)
<b>Comment ID</b>	1
<b>Response Date</b>	29/01/19 15:51
<b>Consultation Point</b>	Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036: Proposed Main Modifications 2018 Habitats Regulations Assessment ( <a href="#">View</a> )
<b>Status</b>	Processed
<b>Submission Type</b>	Email
<b>Version</b>	0.8
<b>Files</b>	<a href="#">Nuttall for Natural England_Redacted.pdf</a>
<b>Comment Type</b>	
<b>How would you describe your comment?</b>	Have Observations

### Comment

Please tell us your views. If you would like to see changes made please say why making reference to evidence if available and describe how such changes should be made by identifying additional text by underlining it ( **U** ) and any text to be deleted by striking it through ( **ABC** ).

Please be as concise as possible.

### Comment

The Proposed Main Modifications 2018 Habitats Regulations Assessment identifies marginally positive effects for European sites, particularly Portholme Special Area of Conservation (SAC). This is considered to be largely due to MM1 which reduces the anticipated number of housing completions within the plan period, particularly around the Huntingdon Spatial Planning Area. The HRA indicates that this will have potentially positive effects for Portholme in terms of reduced airborne pollution, reduced pressure for recreational use, reduced overall risk of flooding and reduced risk of impacts from reduced water quality. Natural England's advice is that the HRA should assess the effects of significantly reducing the area of the Hinchbrooke Country Park Extension, through MM21, given that this is a key measure for mitigating the recreational impacts of Plan development on Portholme SAC. Clarification should

be provided to demonstrate that this 'reduced mitigation' is proportionately offset by a reduction in the number of housing completions through the plan period. We agree that the clearer guidance on flood risk assessments and requirement for climate change predictions to be taken into account, introduced through MM3, will have potentially positive effects on Portholme SAC and the Ouse Washes SAC, SPA and Ramsar site through reduced impact on water quality. Subject to clarification relating to MM21, discussed above, Natural England is generally supportive of the HRA conclusion that proposed main modifications will not result in any adverse effect on the ecological integrity of any designated site addressed in the HRA. Since the proposed main modifications do not introduce any new development site allocations the no adverse effect conclusion of the Local Plan HRA therefore remains unchanged.

## **Summary**

### **Summary**

Natural England's advice is that clarification should be provided to demonstrate that the 'reduced mitigation' provided by the smaller extension to Hinchingsbrooke Country Park is proportionately offset by a reduction in the number of housing completions through the plan period. Agrees with outcomes of MM3.