

Mrs Sarah Barker
Principal Planner
Planning, Transport and Regeneration
Ipswich Borough Council
15-17 Russell Road
Ipswich
Suffolk
IP1 2DE

Our ref.: W11210 NS.ns
Your ref.:

Ancient House Mews
Church Street
Woodbridge
Suffolk IP12 1DH

t. (01394) 380 509
f. (01394) 386 050
e. tlp@woodbridge.tlp.uk.com

Bedford (01234) 261 315
London (020) 7252 0002
Norwich (01603) 230 777
thelandscapepartnership.com

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Dear Sarah

Appropriate Assessment update – Ipswich Core Strategy

Following a very recent consultation by Suffolk Coastal District Council on their Core Strategy's Appropriate Assessment, respondents pointed out some inconsistencies in the Appropriate Assessment. The two Core Strategies are linked through Appropriate Assessment, as strategic allocations in both authorities act in combination in their effect upon some European sites. Although the inconsistencies are more relevant to strategic housing allocations in Suffolk Coastal rather than in Ipswich, I would like to point out the inconsistencies, the way in which the inconsistencies may be corrected, and the impact this has on the conclusions of the Ipswich Borough Core Strategy Appropriate Assessment.

In the Suffolk Coastal Core Strategy Appropriate Assessment, the availability of car parking at Waldringfield was noted in one paragraph but subsequently the parking status at this site was described as having 'no public parking'. The car parking at Martlesham Creek was also treated inconsistently. These inconsistencies are under review with the intention of correcting them; it is considered that further emphasis may be needed on visitor management and monitoring with respect to the Deben SPA. This issue relates to Suffolk Coastal's strategic allocation east of Ipswich only and does not affect assessment of any of Ipswich Borough's strategic allocations.

The conclusions of the Ipswich Borough Core Strategy Appropriate Assessment are unaffected, in that the mitigation proposed in the Appropriate Assessment remains as described, and the overall conclusion of no adverse effect upon the integrity of European sites remains unchanged.

Yours sincerely

Nick Sibbett
Senior Ecologist

Directors:

Jonathan Billingsley
MA(Oxon) BPhil CMLI

Oliver Lee
BA DipLA CMLI

Paul Mathews
BA(Hons) DipLA CMLI

Dianne Western
BA DipLA CMLI

Phill Wray
BSc(Hons) MA CMLI

Associate Directors:

Joanna Ede
BA(Hons) DipLA MA CMLI

Simon Neesam
BA(Hons) DipLA CMLI

Dr Jo Parmenter
PhD BSc(Hons) MIEEM CEnv

Michael Roseveare
NDArb MArborA

Adrian Thompson
BA BLD CMLI

Associates:

Catherine Bailey
BSc MPhil CMLI

Alastair Ferrar
BL(Hons) PLArch

Mark Flatman
BA(Hons) DipLA CMLI

Laura Smith
BSc(Hons) MA MRTPI MIEEM

Consultants:

Sarah Reynolds
BSc(Hons) DipLD MA CMLI

Christopher Stratton OBE
DipLA FLI MILI MRTPI

Associated offices:

Cork (00 353) 21 496 9224
Dublin (00 353) 1 661 0419
Galway (00 353) 91 735 040

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15a St Cuthberts Street
Bedford MK40 3JG
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