

To:
Norman Kwan, Horsham District Council

CC:

Project name:
Horsham Local Plan

Project ref:

From:
Dr James Riley, Technical Director (HRA)

Date:
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Horsham Local Plan Modifications HRA Technical Note – Initial summary of outcomes

Traffic and air quality

One significant Habitats Regulations Assessment issue when the Local Plan HRA was undertaken for submission was that of traffic related air quality impacts on The Mens SAC from in combination traffic growth over the plan period, particularly in Horsham Local Plan but also in other authorities (notably Chichester District). The updated air quality modelling for the additional housing growth emerging findings are sufficient to confirm that while there appears to be a greater in combination effect on the A272 past The Mens SAC this is due to the 2025 baseline traffic data being lower than the 2019 baseline traffic data used in the previous assessments. When the actual effect of growth in Horsham District is taken into account the impact from the new Do Something scenario is reduced from that at the time the previous traffic-related air quality modelling was undertaken. It can therefore be stated that there is a high likelihood that the existing traffic-related air quality mitigation strategy will remain adequate to address the effect of traffic growth due to Horsham Local Plan.

Other Habitats Regulations Assessment issues

The key other Habitats Regulations Assessment issues investigated for the submitted Local Plan were:

- Water neutrality relating to Arun Valley SAC/SPA/Ramsar site – this is no longer a concern, with a strategic solution having been identified by stakeholders including Southern Water and government;
- Loss of functionally-linked habitat for Arun Valley SPA/Ramsar site, particularly Bewick Swan – while 17 allocated sites (including existing allocations) fall within the relevant zone around the SPA and support suitable habitat for Bewick Swan, the policy approach to delivering mitigation that was identified in the submitted Local Plan can cover these sites.
- Loss of functionally-linked habitat for The Mens SAC and Ebernoe Common SAC, for barbastelle bat – while 28 allocated sites (including existing allocations) fall within the relevant zone around the SPA and support suitable habitat for barbastelle bat, the policy approach to delivering mitigation that was identified in the submitted Local Plan can cover these sites.

Conclusion

In conclusion, while the HRA is still being completed there is a high level of confidence that the additional quantum of growth does not materially adversely affect HRA issues beyond the submitted Local Plan.

