

Greater Manchester Ecology Unit

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Your ref :
Our ref : S:/Appropriate
Assessment
Contact : Suzanne Waymont
Date : 5th April 2013

Dear Nicola

Habitats Regulation Assessment of Allocation Plan

Further to your e-mail 30th January 2013, I have now had an opportunity to consider the proposed changes to the allocations map you provided against the HRA that GMEU provided for Bolton Council (Habitats Regulation Assessment of the Impact on European Protected Sites of Bolton Council's Core Strategy (Publication Document) dated October 2009). I have the following comments to make;

- The HRA of the Core Strategy undertook a broad screening assessment in order to screen in any European Sites that may be impacted by any proposal or policy within Bolton District.
- This document concluded at 3.13 the '*no European designated sites have been identified as having the potential to be affected by development within the selected administrative boundary of Bolton*'.
- My current assessment considered all the allocated sites as presented on the DPD plan and the nature of the proposals as identified broadly on the key and the Core Strategy Policies.
- It can be concluded that the DPD Plan identifies no further Likely Significant Effects or impacts than those considered in the Core Strategy HRA.
- The Summary and Recommendations as laid out in Section 6 of the Core Strategy HRA are therefore still accurate and can be applied to the current consideration of the DPD.

In my opinion as specialist advisor to the competent authority, this response is sufficient to indicate that a formal assessment has been undertaken in consideration of the Habitats Regulation and that it does not warrant a full re-issue of the underpinning evidence (ie GMEU's original report 2009) and therefore this letter's conclusion is appropriate to be included in the procedures and reports that support the DPD.

I look forward to receiving a formal consultation on the DPD in order that GMEU can consider its implications against the local biodiversity considerations of Sites of Biological Importance, Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan, Green Infrastructure and LNRs etc.

It may be prudent to include a copy of this letter as an attachment when the Council consult Natural England. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

SUZANNE WAYMONT M.I.E.E.M
SENIOR ECOLOGIST

GMEU provides an ecological advisory service to and on behalf of the ten district councils of Greater Manchester.
The Unit is attached to Tameside as lead authority.

BOLTON, BURY, MANCHESTER, OLDHAM, ROCHDALE, SALFORD, STOCKPORT, TAMESIDE, TRAFFORD, WIGAN.