

Date: 07 May 2013
Our ref: 82202
Your ref: -



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BY EMAIL ONLY
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Dear Ms Thorne

Consultation on the Inspector's Further Main Modifications to the South Gloucestershire Core Strategy

Thank you for your consultation on the above which was received by Natural England on 23 March 2013.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Sustainability Appraisal (SA), Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA)

We have considered the Inspector's proposed further main modifications to the South Gloucestershire Core Strategy alongside the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of these proposed changes, including the appraisal of alternative locations and sites which identified land at Morton Way North, Thornbury as being the most sustainable to meet the shortfall in housing in the first five years of the Plan.

We are generally satisfied the assessments provide an adequate review of potentially significant effects on the natural environment that are likely to arise from the proposed modifications. Based on the information provided, we would not expect the changes to result in significant impacts on nationally protected sites or landscapes.

We have also considered Appendix 3: Habitats Regulations Assessment addendum and we are satisfied that the further proposed modifications would not be likely to affect the favourable conservation status of any Natura 2000 sites and therefore do not alter the 2011 conclusions of the Core Strategy HRA.

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but if in the meantime you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Amanda Grundy on 0300 060 1454. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

We really value your feedback to help us improve the service we offer. We have attached a

feedback form to this letter and welcome any comments you might have about our service.

Yours sincerely

Amanda Grundy
Lead Adviser, Sustainable Land Use