

Date: 4th March 2013
Our ref: 78116
Your ref: DCS004



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BY EMAIL ONLY

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Dear Sir/Madam,

New Forest District Council CIL Examination

Thank you for your consultation on the above.

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.

We note that document CILR4 makes reference to “7. The provision of onsite open space for larger sites (those over 0.5ha) is an important policy requirement. It is important that this is secured to ensure the mitigation of the development on international designations.” However, as the inspector is aware, the nature, location and scale of the mitigation measures required to address potential impacts on international designations is still to be resolved, and may well include onsite open space and or contributions to CIL. Any proposals for onsite open space and or contributions to CIL will need to be considered in the context of the Habitats Regulation Assessment of the Sites and Housing Sites & Development Management DPD.

We also would draw attention to our position with respect to the applicability of CIL in delivering mitigation for international sites. If relying on mitigation to be delivered through CIL, we consider that New Forest District Council will need to demonstrate, in advance of adopting a CIL charging schedule, that there is sufficient certainty of the required financial commitment to deliver the mitigation proposed to ensure compliance with the Habitats Regulations. If such security can be demonstrated, we consider there is no need for a local authority to undertake an HRA assessment of its Charging Schedule. For more details please see the attached letter which was sent to all local planning authorities which are proposing to use CIL to mitigate for impacts on Thames Basin Heaths SPA.

For any correspondence or queries relating to this consultation only, please contact Charles Routh on 07990 773630. For any new consultations or issues, please contact 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

Charles Routh

Lead Adviser, Winchester Land Use Operations Team, Natural England.