From: Burlachka, Yana < Yana. Burlachka@naturalengland.org.uk>

Sent: 07 May 2019 16:38

To: Matthew Neal < Matthew.Neal@stratford-dc.gov.uk >

Cc: Kirkham, Victoria < Victoria.Kirkham@naturalengland.org.uk >

Subject: RE: Claverdon Neighbourhood Plan - Habitats and Species update

Dear Matthew,

Please except our apologies for the delayed response. I have check with the consultations team, they did receive your original consultation request. Unfortunately, consultation response team is significantly under resourced at the moment and therefore a response to this consultation was likely to be delayed.

Claverdon Neighbourhood Plan - Habitats and Species update

I can confirm that the recent changes to the HRA Regulations process would not change our response to the original consultation on the SEA Screening.

The recent changes to the HRA process would imply that if there is a pathway for the impacts on the European designation from a plan or project the likely significant effect cannot be ruled out at the screening stage of the HRA process. Plans and projects than should proceed to the HRA Appropriate Assessment stage where potential impacts and mitigation can be considered.

In a case of Claverdon NDP the closest European designated sites are located approx.: 29k – Ensor's Pool SAC, 32K - Bredon Hill SAC and 36K - Fens Pools SAC. Our guidance on screening distances for potential impacts on European designations is 10k so it is safe to assume the existence of potential pathways for impacts is unlikely.

Please let me know if you require further assistance.

Kind regards,

Yana Burlachka
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Planning for a Better Environment – West Midlands Team
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We are here to secure a healthy natural environment for people to enjoy, where wildlife is protected and England's traditional landscapes are safeguarded for future generations.

In an effort to reduce Natural England's carbon footprint I will, wherever possible, avoid travelling to meetings and attend via audio, video or web conferencing.

Natural England offers two chargeable services – The Discretionary Advice Service (<u>DAS</u>) provides pre-application, pre-determination and post-consent advice on proposals to developers

and consultants as well as pre-licensing species advice and pre-assent and consent advice. The Pre-submission Screening Service (<u>PSS</u>) provides advice for protected species mitigation licence applications.

These services help applicants take appropriate account of environmental considerations at an early stage of project development, reduce uncertainty, reduce the risk of delay and added cost at a later stage, whilst securing good results for the natural environment.