

31st March, 2016

Economic Development and Planning
County Hall
Bythesea Road
Trowbridge
Wiltshire
BA14 8JN

Re: Habitats Regulations Screening Assessment of Cricklade Draft Neighbourhood Plan

The Council has recently reviewed the current draft of the emerging Cricklade Neighbourhood Plan for potential impacts upon the network of European protected sites known as Natura 2000. The attached 'Habitats Regulations Assessment' (HRA) is made on behalf of Wiltshire Council competent authority for the plan, and is in accordance with relevant statutory requirements and best practice.

While the plan does not allocate any specific areas for development, it does support residential and tourism development at the town which could increase recreational pressures upon the nearby North Meadows SAC site. Natural England has recently highlighted damage to the site as a result of trampling by the general public, but has also identified costed measures to avoid and reduce these impacts through improved visitor access management at the site. We're pleased to have the opportunity to review the emerging plan at an early stage of development and have therefore made recommendations for how the relevant policies (highlighted in red) should be drafted to address this issue. We will however need to review and re-screen a subsequent version of the plan once these policies have been drafted, prior to any pre-submission (Regulation 14) consultation.

More generally, the comments in the HRA table will draw your attention to a few other policies in the development plan to be aware of, and relevant sources of guidance and information which you may find useful in developing those particular policies which I hope you find useful.

Yours sincerely,



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