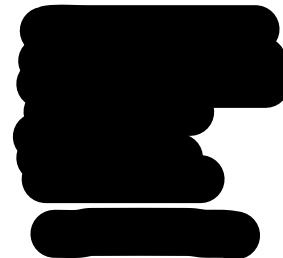


Date: 10 January 2020  
Our ref: 299047  
Your ref: Essex Coast RAMS SEA/HRA



**BY EMAIL ONLY**



Dear 

**Planning consultation: Essex Coast Recreational Disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (RAMS) Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) HRA and SEA Screening**

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 23 October 2019 which was received by Natural England on the same date.

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.

**Essex Coast RAMS SPD Habitats Regulations Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening**

Natural England welcomes your consultation on the supporting Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the forthcoming Supplementary Planning Document for the Essex Coast RAMS strategic solution. It is understood that public consultation on the full SPD is due to be undertaken in early 2020.

The Essex Coast RAMS has been developed through the Local Plan process and accompanying HRA and refers to 12 participating Local Planning Authorities, with the aim of mitigating in-combination recreational disturbance impacts on the Essex Coast designated sites as a result of new residential development. The referenced Supplementary Planning Document has been drafted to support this strategic solution and provides the mechanism and guidance for the required financial contributions and tariff. As you will be aware, Natural England's most recent advice is as per our letter reference 244199, dated 16<sup>th</sup> August 2018 and our correspondence to the ongoing individual Local Plans.

Natural England is generally satisfied with the conclusions of the SEA and HRA Screening report (August 2019), in that the SPD can be screened out for its requirement of Strategic Environmental Assessment and the conclusion of the Habitats Regulation Screening that no further assessment is necessary at this time. Please note that this is based on the information as currently provided and should on publication of the final SPD document this requirement change, Natural England may need to update this advice as necessary.

Whilst it is understood the SPD in itself does not outline the specific mitigation projects that will be undertaken, Natural England would take this opportunity to remind the participating LPA's that this aspect of the RAMS will likely necessitate individual project level HRA's at the appropriate time. We would be happy to continue working with the Local Planning Authority on this matter as needed.

We will await consultation on the SPD itself in the near future and would be happy to provide further comments in due course. Should the proposal change, please consult us again.

If you have any queries relating to the advice in this letter please contact me on Heather.read@naturalengland.org.uk

Yours sincerely

Heather Read  
Essex Area Delivery Team