

1 August 2023

David Scully
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council**Inspector's Recommendations on the Submitted Local Plan and Habitats Regulations Assessment Implications**

Dear David,

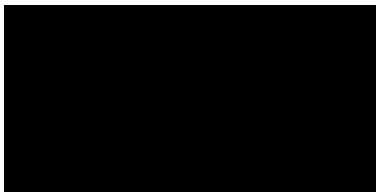
We understand that following the Inspector's advice to the Council, the main changes the Council intends to make to the Local Plan are:

- Removal of the Tudeley Village allocation from the Local Plan;
- And a reduced scale of development at Paddock Wood;
- The possible need for additional residential development at Hawkhurst.

Having reviewed the changes, I am confident that they won't have any effect on the HRA with regard to recreational pressure on Ashdown Forest. With regard to air quality impacts, the deletion of Tudeley Village would have a neutral impact (and may even have a slightly positive impact). Without rerunning traffic modelling one cannot put precise numbers on what effect the other changes would have but given the location of Hawkhurst relative to Ashdown Forest (and the distance between Hawkhurst and Ashdown Forest) I don't think an increase of 70 dwellings would materially alter projected traffic flows through the SAC. I understand the approach to Paddock Wood parish would be to reduce the numbers from up to 3,590 to c. 2,650, which would reduce any air quality impact from what was assessed in the Local Plan HRA, so that would also not have a negative effect on our assessment.

Therefore, I am of the view that the changes to the Local Plan would not adversely affect the conclusions of reached for the Submission HRA.

Yours sincerely,

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