

**Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part 2**  
**Statement of Common Ground (Addendum)**

**Between**

**Vale of White Horse District Council**

**and**

**Natural England**

**June 2018**

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1. This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared by Vale of White Horse District Council (“VoWH”) and Natural England hereafter referred to as “the parties”. This SoCG is presented as an addendum to the original SoCG (**SCG14**) agreed between the parties. It provides an update to matters raised by Natural England through the Regulation 19 publicity period of Local Plan 2031 Part 2

**2. Background**

- 2.1. A SoCG (**SCG14**) was produced in March 2018 which addresses a number of matters raised by Natural England on the Part 2 plan. It also identifies two outstanding matters relating to the VoWH HRA at that time (**CSD08**). These relate to the following:
- Air quality effects on Cothill Fen Special Area of Conservation (SAC); and
  - In combination air quality effects on Oxford Meadows SAC with Cherwell’s Partial Review of Local Plan 2031 Part.
- 2.2. Through that SoCG, the parties agreed to undertake further modelling work to demonstrate how movement of traffic on the smaller roads near to Cothill Fen SAC will not lead to a detrimental effect<sup>1</sup>.
- 2.3. The parties also agreed to work positively with Cherwell District Council to ensure that in combination effects of Vale’s Local Plan 2031 Part 2 and

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<sup>1</sup> **SCG14** Statement of Common Ground with Natural England (February 2018). Paragraph 3.7

Cherwell's Partial Review of Local Plan 2031 Part 1 are investigated further prior to the examination in public of both plans<sup>2</sup>.

- 2.4. In response to the recent judgement of the Court of Justice of the European Union in *People over Wind, Peter Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta* (Case C-323/17) and the Planning Inspectorate Guidance concerning the same matter (PINS Note 05/2018), VoWH has prepared the Habitats Regulations Assessment (June 2018) (**CSD08.2**) to ensure legal compliance with this judgement. This is currently subject to consultation with Natural England until 25 June 2018.

### **3. Updated Matters relating to Local Plan 2031 Part 2**

#### *Cothill Fen SAC – Air Quality*

- 3.1. The council submitted traffic modelling data to Natural England on 21 May 2018 for all roads in the vicinity of Cothill Fen SAC. This data stems from the original countywide model used to inform the preparation of Local Plan 2031 Part 2 and takes account of the additional allocations proposed in the Part 2 plan. The data demonstrates that there are no likely significant effects on Cothill Fen SAC arising from traffic related air pollution.
- 3.2. Natural England confirm that this data addresses their concern on this matter. The data is included in Appendix A of the HRA (June 2018) (**CSD08.2**).

#### *Oxford Meadows SAC – Air Quality*

- 3.3. Vale of White Horse District Council and Cherwell District Council have worked collaboratively on this matter in recent months. A memo was jointly submitted to Natural England on 10 May 2018.
- 3.4. The analysis presented in the memo concludes that the changes in NO<sub>x</sub> levels arising from both local plans will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of Oxford Meadows SAC.
- 3.5. Natural England confirm that the information contained in the memo address their concern on this strategic matter. The memo and the subsequent response from Natural England are included in Appendix B and Appendix C of the HRA (June 2018) (**CSD08.2**).

### **4. Conclusions**

- 4.1. Natural England are content that all matters raised through their representations made to the Regulation 19 publicity period of Local Plan 2031 Part 2 have now been addressed.

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<sup>2</sup> **SCG14** Statement of Common Ground with Natural England (February 2018). Paragraph 3.13

## **Signatures**

Signed on behalf of Vale of White Horse District Council

Adrian Duffield  
Head of Planning

Date: 15 June 2018

Signed on behalf of Natural England

Marc Turner  
Senior Adviser

Date: 13 June 2018