

Appendix D

Letter of support from Natural England

Date: 29 June 2015
Our ref: 157673



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BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear David

LETTER OF SUPPORT: MILTON COMMON LOCAL NATURE RESERVE: RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

**Chichester and Langstone Harbours Special Protection Area (SPA)
Portsmouth Harbour SPA**

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.

The Draft Restoration and Management Framework for Milton Common was sent to Natural England on 29 June 2015.

Natural England's advice is that the delivery of this management and restoration framework, in addition to contributions towards the Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership, is sufficient to mitigate the recreational disturbance impacts of the SPA, of up to 897 new residents at Milton.

As mentioned with the Framework, the restoration and management of Milton Common does not mitigate other impacts associated with the Draft Lockway Road Milton Site Allocation, such as loss or increased disturbance of SPA supporting habitat located near or within the allocation, disruption to flight lines or light pollution. These issues will need to be dealt with separately by each developer to ensure no likely significant effect on the SPA. We advise that the developers liaise directly with Natural England at an appropriate time over these other impacts.

Portsmouth City Council (PCC) should also ensure that the appropriate contributions to deliver the mitigation *in perpetuity*, as detailed in the Framework, are secured from each developer as part of a S106, or other legal agreement, prior to commencement of the development. The key infrastructure works, such as the circular walk, signage, and significant scrub clearance, should be delivered prior to first occupation.

At this stage, we can see no reason why Milton Common should not be designated as a Local Nature Reserve. We will provide PCC with additional advice regarding this at a later date.

Yours sincerely

Francesca Barker
Dorset, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Area Team (0300 060 0873)

