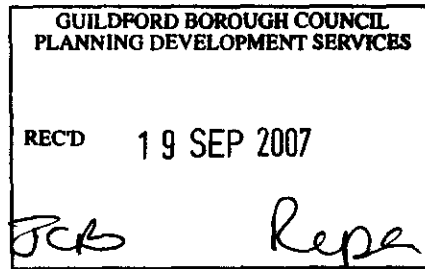


Date: 19 September 2007



Guildford Borough Council
Via email.



Phoenix House
33 North Street
Lewes
East Sussex
BN7 2PH

Dear Ms Humphrey,

Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA)

The following applications have been sent to Natural England:

- 07/P/01809
- 07/P/01911

Proposed developments outside 5.2km boundary to SPA

The 'Report To The Panel For The Draft South East Plan Examination In Public' released in February 2007, and the subsequent addendum (dated 13th April 2007) recommended that travel distance be used to define zones around the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA). Up till now Natural England has advised that residential development within 5km of the SPA measured as a linear distance is likely to have a significant effect on the SPA.

We have recently carried out further analysis of visitor survey data and this suggests that a travel distance based zone of 5.2km measured to the nearest part of the SPA boundary would encompass the same proportion of visitors to the SPA as the 5km linear zone. For this reason Natural England does not need to be consulted on applications more than 5.2km travel distance from the nearest part of the SPA. Natural England therefore, has no comments to make with respect to the SPA in relation to the above applications that fall within this category.

Proposed Developments within 5.2km travel distance of the SPA

As there is an Interim Avoidance Plan in Guildford Borough, we have no comments to make on the above developments that fall within this category. We will assume that the proposals are meeting the requirement of that plan and that the legislation around protected species has also been addressed. If an applicant is not complying with the avoidance plan, then please do contact myself in order that we can address how to proceed. I look forward to receiving the monthly report in due course with these proposals included.

If you have any queries with the above advice, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely