Date: 10 October 2013 Our ref: 100139 Your ref: Policy N6



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Stafford Borough Council

For the attention of Melissa Kurihara

BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Melissa

Stafford Borough Local Plan policy N6 - Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Thank you for your email consultation on the above dated 09 October 2013 which was received by Natural England the same day.

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.

Natural England agrees that the proposed amended wording (indicated below) is consistent with our advice letter of 23 September 2013. We support the inclusion of this amended policy wording accordingly.

Policy N6 Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Development will not be permitted where it would lead directly or indirectly to an adverse effect upon the integrity of the Cannock Chase SAC where the effects cannot be mitigated.

To ensure the Cannock Chase SAC is not harmed, all development that leads to a net increase in dwellings within 15 km of the site, as shown on the Policies Map, must provide avoidance and mitigation measures.

Development will be expected to take all necessary steps on-site, to avoid or mitigate any adverse effects upon the SAC's integrity or, where this cannot be achieved within the development, make provision for mitigation measures designed to avoid such adverse effects taking place, as set out in the Cannock Chase SAC Visitor Impacts Mitigation Report (or any updated mitigation report agreed by the SAC Partnership).

The effective avoidance and / or mitigation of any identified adverse effects must be demonstrated to the Council as the Competent Authority and Natural England and secured prior to approval of the development through developer contributions or levy mechanism.

Further information will be set out in a Supplementary Planning Document on mitigation and implementation.

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but if in the meantime you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter <u>only</u> please contact me on 0300 060 1640. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to <u>consultations@naturalengland.org.uk</u>.

We really value your feedback to help us improve the service we offer. We have attached a feedback form to this letter and welcome any comments you might have about our service.

Yours sincerely

Antony Muller Lead Adviser, Natural England Land use Operations Team