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Our ref: 124780



Paul.Morris@knowsley.gov.uk  
**BY EMAIL ONLY**

Customer Services  
Hornbeam House  
Crewe Business Park  
Electra Way  
Crewe  
Cheshire  
CW1 6GJ

T 0300 060 3900

Dear Mr Morris

**Planning consultation: Knowsley Local Plan Core Strategy Examination Update:  
Modifications and Reconvened Hearings**

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 26 Jun2014 which was received by Natural England on 26 June 2014.

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.

Having reviewed the modifications report we can confirm other than one point below we have no additional comments to make.

We would however like to take this opportunity to remind you that as a result of these proposed changes to the Knowsley Local Plan we advise that you ensure the Habitats Regulations Assessment is updated in order that it corresponds fully with these revisions, as required by Regulation 102 of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010.

With respect to modification M128, we advise that this section could be improved by making reference to **avoidance** before considering mitigation and compensation, in-line with the mitigation hierarchy set out under paragraph 118 of the National Planning Policy Framework. Natural England suggests the following amendment:

*M128: 5.95D In some circumstances, **where avoidance measures are not available**, adequate mitigation and / or compensation for biodiversity loss may be acceptable but incapable of being provided within the application site. In such cases where appropriate, priority will be given to equivalent off site opportunities for such mitigation or, as a last resort, compensation.*

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 only please contact Kate Wheeler on 07769 918711. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to [consultations@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk).



Yours sincerely

Kate Wheeler  
Cheshire, Greater Manchester, Merseyside and Lancashire Area

