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Pat Randall
East Sussex County Council

Habitat Regulations Assessment of Regulation 18 Waste and Minerals Local Plan (WMLP)

Dear Pat,

You asked me to undertake an initial high-level review of the Regulation 18 WMLP to confirm any significant issues from a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) perspective. This review precedes the formal HRA of the Regulation 18 Local Plan which will set out the full analysis. Due to the limited time available for review the contents of this letter focuses on the main points.

With that in mind, I have been through the WMLP document and I have not found any fundamental HRA issues. I can see the further expansion of Lydd quarry is deleted from the safeguarding areas and that you are proposing very few allocations for minerals, with the focus being on safeguarding existing sites/resources and importation facilities.

I have also checked the areas of search around waste sites, although I note that they are all contained in the adopted sites plan and are not proposed for amendment as part of this exercise. Proposals that come forward within those areas of search may require assessment of impacts on Ashdown Forest SAC/SPA (or other European sites) depending on their nature, but since the WMLP does not make any proposals the simple fact that an area of search is identified will not lead to adverse effects on European sites.

I can also see you have amended the supporting text regarding traffic generation in light of the Wealden vs Lewes District Council & South Downs National Park Authority High Court ruling and I concur with that amendment.

At the moment my only suggestion is for RM1. I note it states that '*Proposals for new additional capacity for a) and b) (including increased operational capacity within the site boundary of existing infrastructure) will be supported*' but I wonder whether a caveat is required at the end: '*subject to the environmental protection requirements set out in other plan policies*' or similar?

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'James Riley', with a blue circular mark below it.

Dr James Riley
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