

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK EXAMINATION MEDWAY COUNCIL

Date: 14 June 2012

Mr N Jennings
Adviser Environmental Planning
Natural England
South East Region

Dear Mr Jennings

Medway Core Strategy Hearings

At this morning's session of the Hearings, Dr John Day of the RSPB submitted evidence to the examination in the form of a map (attached) relating to the BTO Nightingale Survey 2012 at Lodge Hill. The Inspector agreed to accept this new evidence on the basis that it has only recently been made available and could not have been submitted within the timetable set out in the Examination Guidance Notes.

Dr Day made a number of points about the implications of the Survey results some of which were contested by the Council on a factual basis.

The Inspector has asked the Council and the RSPB to work together over the next week with a view to submitting to the Examination and to you, a statement of agreed points or, in the absence of agreement, an identification of areas of dispute, relating to this new evidence.

Once you have received this information, the Inspector would be grateful if you could provide comments on the following points:

1. Will this information lead to a reclassification of all or any part of the Lodge Hill Strategic Allocation, as shown in the Submission Draft Core Strategy as a SSSI. The RSPB are keen to understand your reasons if that is not the case.

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2. Whether this new information would lead you to reconsider the representations you have made to date regarding the inclusion of the Lodge Hill Strategic Allocation in the Medway Core Strategy.

I would be grateful to receive a reply at your earliest convenience and it would be helpful if you could give me an indication of when that will be.

Yours sincerely



Alison Rock
Programme Officer

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