

Rep 12  
18.09.14

**From:** Routh, Charles (NE) [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 29 September 2014 09:37  
**To:** Payne, Christopher  
**Subject:** RE: Gosport Borough Council's Local Plan 2029 (Publication Version) Notification of Consultation letter. NE ref: 128151

Dear Chris, yes, our mistake. I can confirm that our representation relates to policy LP42. Apologies for the confusion.

Charles Routh  
Lead Adviser, Sustainable Development, Somerset, Avon and Wiltshire Team, Natural England.  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** Payne, Christopher [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 26 September 2014 16:52  
**To:** Routh, Charles (NE)  
**Subject:** RE: Gosport Borough Council's Local Plan 2029 (Publication Version) Notification of Consultation letter. NE ref: 128151

Charles

Thank you response. Can I clarify a point with you. In point 7 of your letter you refer to policy LP44. Do you mean policy LP44 as policy LP42 deals with the Internationally and Nationally important habitats. Could I ask you to confirm if you representation relates to policy LP42 or LP 44.

Regards

Chris Payne  
Head of Planning Policy  
Gosport Borough Council  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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Date: 18<sup>th</sup> September 2014  
Our ref: 128151  
Your ref: -



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Gosport Borough Council

**BY EMAIL ONLY**



Dear Sir/Madam,

## **GOSPORT BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN 2011-2029: PUBLICATION VERSION JULY 2014**

Thank you for your consultation on the above.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body whose statutory purpose, as set out in the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006), 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.

1. Natural England was consulted on the previous iteration of this plan in December 2013. We have reviewed the current plan against our previous representation rather than review the entire plan afresh, as we understand from the Council that the changes between the 2013 version and the current version are minor.
2. We are pleased to note that in the main the issues we raised have been addressed.
3. We note that regarding LP8, in the Summary and Analysis of Consultation Responses you said:

*Following a meeting with NE (1/7/13) and following e-mail (3/7/13- included with original submission) NE have accepted GBC's position and suggest a further amendment regarding dog use of the site affecting on-site biodiversity. The proposed amendment can be incorporated within the Local Plan.*

4. Our email said:

*However, during discussions with the site officer, it was pointed out that the promotion of Alver Valley Country Park may have recreational impacts on the bird interest within the Country Park, in particular the on the Wild grounds SSSI. Whilst these birds are not a feature of the Wild grounds SSSI, they are none the less of biodiversity value. We suggest it would be helpful to recognise this in the supporting text of para 7.179 by adding "...including the Carters Copse Local Nature Reserve. A number of species using these habitats are sensitive to disturbance, especially from dogs. The protection and enhancement of biodiversity within the Country Park and allowing appropriate public access for the public to enjoy such areas will be a key objective in the management of the Alver Valley."*

5. This proposed amendment does not seem to have been made. We request that this change is indeed made, as the policy is not likely to be effective in the absence of this change, and thus be unsound.
6. As per our previous representation, Natural England has concern over allocating the site at policy LP9a: Priddy's Hard for a residential and mixed use allocation as it lies adjacent to the Portsmouth Harbour Special Protection Area, Ramsar site and SSSI. Whilst it is likely that

some of this site can be developed, it is likely that not all of it can be due to constraints posed by the SPA. We are thus uncertain whether the policy can be delivered. Whilst “up to 100 dwellings” can be delivered (given this imposes no minimum number) it may be impossible to deliver “approx. 1,400 sq.m” of other uses. To make the policy deliverable, we thus advise that the policy is changed to read “up to approx. 1,400 sq.m”.

7. LP44. We are aware that mitigation contributions are already being collected, and this section may benefit from being updated to reflect the current position.

### **Habitats Regulation Assessment**

8. We concur with the conclusion of the Habitats Regulation Assessment, subject to the change outlined above in relation to LP9a: Priddy’s Hard.

We hope you find these comments helpful.

For any correspondence or queries relating to this consultation only, please contact Charles Routh on [REDACTED] For any new consultations or issues, please contact [REDACTED]

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,

Charles Routh

Lead Adviser, on behalf of Hampshire and Dorset Team, Natural England.