RFI 4995 - Request for Information - Response

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SM-NE-FOI (NE) <foi@naturalengland.org.uk>
Fri 01/05/2020 14:44

To:

- You

Cc:

- SM-NE-FOI (NE)

Dear Mr [redacted],

Access to information request –Response Request no RFI 4995

Thank you for your request the information detailed below which we received on 15 March 2020 and we extended on 16 April 2020.

Your request has been considered under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 .

The evidence that demonstrates that the mitigation proposed in Policy EA 2 will be effective in preventing an adverse effect to Ashdown Forest SPA as a result of recreational pressure was supplied to Natural England by Wealden District Council (WDC) as part of their Habitats Regulations Assessment for the Local Plan. . Whilst the Local Plan has been withdrawn, the planning policy evidence base owned by WDC is still available on their website at the following link:

https://www.wealden.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/planning-policy-evidence-base/habitat-regulations-assessment/

One of the sources of evidence is ***Ashdown Forest visitor survey data analysis*** **(CLARKE, R. T., SHARP, J. & LILEY, D. 2010.).** This one source of evidence was a **Natural England Commissioned Report NECR048**. This document is also available on the WDC website at the link above or can be accessed on the Natural England publications page:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/natural-englands-publications-maps-and-data

The **Natural England Commissioned Report NECR048** refers to a broader evidence base from Thames Basin Heaths (TBH) that was gathered by those planning authorities within the TBH zone of influence. This evidence is not owned by Natural England. Some wider reports (unconnected to Ashdown Forest specifically) are referenced in the same commissioned report; where these have been commissioned by Natural England or the legacy body English Nature, these can be accessed on the Natural England publications page.

If you have any queries about this email, please contact me. As you may be aware, under the legislation should you have any concerns with the service you have received in relation to your

request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, please email me at foi@naturalengland.org.uk
and I will arrange for a review to take place. Under Regulation 11(2) this needs to be done no later than 40 working days after the date of this email.

If you are not content with the outcome of that complaint, or the review of our decision, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by Natural England. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Telephone: 0303 123 1113 (local rate), www.ico.org.uk

Regards,

[redacted]

[redacted]
Lead Adviser – Access to Information
Legal Services
Legal and Governance

GDPR: Protecting our Customers' and our People's Information

From: [redacted]
Sent: 15 March 2020 21:47
To: SM-NE-FOI (NE) <foi@naturalengland.org.uk>
Subject: Ashdown Forerst SPA EIR request

In your Regulation 19 response dated 5 October 2108 ref. 255168 to the Wealden Local Plan, you state on page 2:

"Natural England is satisfied that it **can** be ascertained that the plan or project will not adversely affect the integrity of Ashdown Forest SAC and Special Protection Area (SPA), from recreational pressure subject to appropriate mitigation measures as identified in Policy EA 2."

Please provide the evidence that demonstrates that the mitigation proposed in Policy EA 2 will be effective in preventing an adverse effect to the SPA from recreation pressure arising from the plan or project.

Regards,

[redacted]

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