

**LAPP.NCC08 25.7.18 Statement from the Council summarising legal advice on the requirement for the Council to undertake further work on Habitats Regulations Assessment**

The Council has sought legal advice on the matters raised by the Inspector in her Initial Observations and Questions in respect of the impact of recent case law on the Council's Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). The legal advice is unequivocal about the need to undertake further work on the HRA in the light of these cases, and the Council has sought the views of Natural England about the scope of the additional work required.

The conclusion of these discussions is that a full review of the HRA is required to support the Local Plan and to ensure that it is legally compliant and (in respect of the Sherwood Forest possible potential Special Protection Area) sufficiently future proofed. The legal advice does not appear on the Examination website in full as it is legally privileged.