

Date: 26 January 2010  
Our ref: NX.B.5.7.90  
Your ref: AT/



Adrian Thorpe  
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Dear Mr Thorpe

**Planning consultation:** Oadby and Wigston Core Strategy Appropriate Assessment Scoping Report

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 22 January 2010 which was received by Natural England on 25 January 2010.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose 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. We are working towards the delivery of four strategic outcomes:

- A healthy natural environment;
- People are inspired to value and conserve the natural environment;
- Sustainable use of the natural environment;
- A secure environmental future

Natural England has the following comments to make regarding the submission of the Oadby and Wigston Core Strategy Appropriate Assessment Scoping Report;

Natural England supports the conclusion of the report that states;

*'This report has shown that the Oadby and Wigston Core Strategy alone, or in combination with other plans, is unlikely to have a detrimental impact on any of the Natura 2000 sites within approximately 25km of the boundary of Oadby and Wigston...Therefore it is concluded that a full Appropriate Assessment is not required.'* (5.1 - 5.2 - Oadby and Wigston Core Strategy Appropriate Assessment Scoping Report)

Natural England supports the conclusions of Section 4 of the Report; each policy area has been satisfactorily assessed for the impact upon the regions SAC and SPA sites, and the conclusions are sound.

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The report has satisfactorily demonstrated that no Natura 2000 sites will be significantly influenced by the contents of the Core Strategy, and as such we advise that no Habitats Regulations Assessment is necessary.

The advice given by Natural England in this letter is made for the purpose of the present consultation only. In accordance with Section 4 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, Natural England expects to be included as a consultee in relation to any additional matters to be determined by [the Consulting Body] that may arise as a result of, or are related to, the present proposal. Natural England retains its statutory discretion to modify its present advice or opinion in view of any and all such additional matters or any additional information related to this consultation that may come to our attention.

Should you wish to discuss this response please do not hesitate to contact me at the above address.

Yours Sincerely

Paul Johnson  
Planning & Biodiversity Advisor, Leicestershire and Rutland  
**Natural England**

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