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Date: 30 August 2024

North Lincolnshire Council

www.northlincs.gov.uk

To Kate Wheeler- Senior Advisor Green infrastructure, Natural England

Via Email to: [REDACTED]

Lesley Potts
Director: Communities
Church Square House
30-40 High Street
Scunthorpe
North Lincolnshire
DN15 6NL

Dear Kate

STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND – NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL AND NATURAL ENGLAND (JUNE 2024)

Following the submission of the above to the North Lincolnshire Local Plan Examination on 25 June 2024, we received a [letter](#) back from the Inspectors examining our Local Plan.

In summary, the Inspectors have raised a number of specific points regarding how Natural England's outstanding objections to the North Lincolnshire Local Plan have been addressed. They have also encouraged the Council to continue narrowing down the areas of disagreement with Natural England as soon as possible as this will enable more effective and constructive discussions at the hearing sessions. To that end, I attach an amended version of the Statement of Common Ground submitted to the examination on 25 June 2024. Suggested amendments are shown as tracked changes. In summary, the amendments:

- Provide additional text to explain a revised HRA is best commissioned once a final version of the revised SoCG is agreed and the issues identified in the Inspectors' [letter](#) of the 23/7/24 have been resolved.
- The functionally linked land assessment has been amended so that there are now no longer any differences of opinion between Natural England and the Council as to which proposed draft Local Plan allocations are screened in or out of potentially being functionally linked land to either the Humber Estuary or Thorne and Hatfield Moors International designations. Proposed allocations H1P-6 (PA/2019/1782)- Moorwell Road, Scunthorpe; H1P-13- Land off Barrow Road, Barton; and H1P-23- Land off Mill Road, Crowle; are now screened in as being potentially functionally linked land. This is now consistent with Natural England's previous consultation responses. The additional criterion outlined in paragraph 3.11 of the Council's previous December 2023 [Briefing Note](#) are now applicable to these allocations as a proposed modification to the Plan, except draft allocation H1P-23, where the criterion in paragraph 3.13 is applicable.
- Proposed modifications are outlined for policies allocating relevant sites for development as well as a policy to address windfall proposals in relation to the potential for functionally linked land. Tracked comments request that Natural England please confirm whether it agrees to the provision of such a policy approach to address the issue, subject to this being included in a revised HRA?

Please can you review these limited changes and add/remove detail from Natural England's position accordingly in a way that allows you to remain signed up to the SoCG?

Please can you advise as to how long it is likely to take for you to get back to us on the SoCG?

In addition, we have attached an amended version of the draft SPD on Biodiversity Net Gain, which NE has previously commented on with amendments made as a result. The SPD now incorporates sections on recreational pressure mitigation, which Natural England has not yet seen. We would welcome any comments you may have on these new elements of the SPD, which includes a 'menu' of possible strategic recreational pressure mitigation measures within section 13. Please advise us as to how long it is likely for you to get back to us on the SPD.

Yours sincerely,



James Durham MRTPI
Place Planning Specialist