



Statement re Lichfield Regulation 19 Publication version Local Plan Review – Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA)

Durwyn Liley, 26th January 2021

A plan-level HRA considers the implications of the plan for European wildlife sites, in terms of any possible harm to the habitats and species that are qualifying features of the European sites in proximity to the proposed plan.

Footprint Ecology has previously been engaged by Lichfield District Council to prepare Habitat Regulation Assessment reports in line with the relevant regulations at each stage of the Lichfield Local Plan Review. The latest report was prepared for the updated Preferred Options version consulted from November 2019 to January 2020.

The January 2020 version of the HRA concluded whilst there were likely significant effects, measures were either in place or were in progression that give confidence that a conclusion of no adverse effects will be possible at the next stage of plan making.

Lichfield District Council will soon publish the next (Regulation 19) version of the plan, which is proposed for consultation during the Spring of 2021, with Examination during the Autumn of 2021. Footprint Ecology and Lichfield District Council are committed to undertaking a review of all of the policies and proposals and evidence available.

Due to the current Covid 19 Pandemic restrictions, the next HRA report iteration will be undertaken in two stages. Initially the HRA will be undertaken without the full information on air quality and traffic modelling, and therefore the appropriate assessment section (stage 2 of the HRA) will not necessarily be able to rule out adverse effects on integrity in relation to air quality. The HRA would be complete in other aspects. A further partial update will then follow once the pandemic restrictions are lifted and the further data for traffic and NoX becomes available prior to the Examination in Public. This update would relate solely to the air quality part of the appropriate assessment. This two-stage approach is acceptable within the regulations because HRA is an iterative process, and the plan has not yet come into force.