

Date: 01 October 2018
Our ref: [Click here to enter text.](#)
Your ref:



Alison Blom Cooper -
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David Coleman - dcoleman@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

-
By email only

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Dear Ms Cooper,

Proposed Interim Approach to Managing Recreational Pressures on the Epping Forest Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Thank you for providing an updated proposal setting out the interim approach for managing recreational pressures on Epping Forest SAC. Natural England supports the approach as detailed in the papers circulated for the last Co-Op Board Meeting on the 10th September 2018.

This interim proposal provides a solid base on which to further develop the final Mitigation Strategy which will also address any air pollution impacts identified from the updated transport and air pollution modelling. We are currently reviewing and considering the latest outputs from this work following on from a meeting with yourselves on 3rd October 2018.

We recognise the significant work that has gone into producing this strategy by yourselves and the City of London Corporation. In relation to the Interim approach for addressing recreational pressure we particularly welcome:

- The commitment to undertake a further visitor survey in the summer of 2019 to ensure the evidence is as robust and accurate as possible;
- Recognition that the Zones of Influence and the apportionment of costs may need to change depending on the findings of the further visitor survey;
- The commitment for allocations to provide Strategic Natural Green Space at Latton Priory, Water Lane, North Weald Bassett and South of Epping Masterplan area within the Epping Forest District Local Plan Submission Version.

Natural England notes the current **interim** approach for managing recreational pressures requires these interim measures to be apportioned across Epping Forest District Council, London Borough of Redbridge and London Borough of Waltham Forest as the majority of visitors have been shown to originate from these local authorities. It is not for Natural England to comment on how the apportionment is taken forward, that is for the local authorities to agree amongst themselves. However, the current proposal ensures that the necessary elements of this interim approach including considerations around the zone of influence and SANGS can be reviewed pending the results from the summer visitor survey.

We trust this letter assists with progressing this important piece of work

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Aidan Lonergan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Aidan Lonergan
Area Manager – West Anglia Team