

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL
CORE STRATEGY DPD
STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND BETWEEN

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL (HBC)

AND

NATURAL ENGLAND (NE)

VERSION 1
2ND FEBRUARY 2012

INTRODUCTION

HBC has been in correspondence with NE (representor number: 4014) in respect of concerns raised in NE's representations with regard to the sections of HBC's Core Strategy DPD relating to the natural environment.

HBC considers that the approach to the natural environment set out in Chapter 5 and Policy CS12 of the Core Strategy is justified, effective and consistent with national policy. However, in order to address NE's concerns HBC has resolved to make a number of minor changes to the Core Strategy. These are:

- Additional wording to the supporting text on green infrastructure, with great recognition, support and referencing of the Hertsmere Green Infrastructure Plan that was completed in 2011
- Additional wording in Policy CS12 to support the aims and objectives of the Hertsmere Green Infrastructure Plan, to provide greater support for the Plan

HBC and NE have agreed these changes (as set out in detail below) through this statement of common ground. NE has confirmed that they no longer have any objections in relation to HBC's Core Strategy DPD on the provision that these changes are made.

RESOLUTIONS

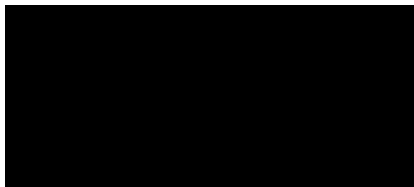
Minor changes to Core Strategy:

N.B.: Deletions are struck through; insertions are underlined.

- **Paragraph 5.13** – Protecting and enhancing these assets and ensuring their proper management involves partnership working between the Council, national agencies such as English Heritage, Natural England and the Environment Agency and many local environmental and voluntary organisations. In particular, the LDF can make a vital contribution to achieving the objectives of the Hertfordshire Biodiversity Action Plan, which was re-issued in 2006 and includes separate action plans to protect key habitats and species across the County. Developers should consult the Hertfordshire Biodiversity Action Plan and the Biodiversity, Trees and Landscape Supplementary Planning Document when considering how their proposals should protect and enhance biodiversity. Working with local partners including the County Council and adjoining authorities, a Hertsmere Green Infrastructure Plan has been produced, which forms part of the evidence base of the Core Strategy and identifies the need for delivering GI in the future. The Plan aims to: increase green access links to the countryside from main settlements; conserve and enhance historic parklands; promote WCCF; link with adjacent Authorities GI; and contribute to landscape character.
- **Policy CS12** – All development proposals must conserve and enhance the natural environment of the Borough, including biodiversity, protected trees, landscape character, and sites of ecological and geological value, in order to maintain and improve environmental quality, and contribute to the objectives of the Hertsmere Green Infrastructure Plan. Proposals should provide opportunities for habitat creation and enhancement throughout the life of a development. In the case of the highest quality agricultural land (Grades 1, 2 and 3a) and Preferred Areas of mineral extraction, proposals will only be permitted where there is no likelihood of the land being sterilised.

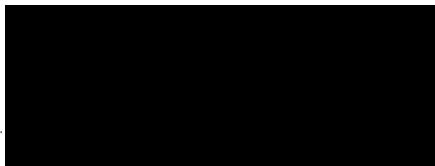
AGREEMENT

Signed by:



On behalf of Hertsmere Borough Council

Dated 3 FEBRUARY 2012



On behalf of Natural England

Dated 7 FEBRUARY 2012