

Nottingham City Council's Note to Inspector in response to Inspector's note of 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018 regarding the Habitats Regulation Screening and anticipated timescales for undertaking the work.

28<sup>th</sup> June 2018

The City Council has commissioned DTA consultants to undertake a Habitats Regulation Screening. They have advised that this can be undertaken in September. By the end of September, they will have completed the work, and incorporated any initial comments from Natural England. Formal consultation can then be undertaken in October and it is anticipated that this will be limited to the required statutory consultees and relevant interested bodies i.e. Natural England, and the Notts Wildlife Trust and the RSPB. This is consistent with the consultation undertaken on the original HRA Screening Record. In common with all technical assessments of this nature, the Council does not anticipate consulting the wider general public at this stage. Should an Appropriate Assessment not be required, the Council considers that a November Examination Hearing date could be achieved, with a six week notice period commencing at the beginning of October, however, it will take advice from the Inspector on this.

Should the screening identify a need for an Appropriate Assessment, the consultants will be tasked with formulating a brief for this work. The time taken to undertake any Appropriate Assessment will of course be dependent on the nature of the issues to be assessed. However, as a rough estimate, it is anticipated that commissioning and completing the Appropriate Assessment is likely to take up to 3 months, after which formal consultation can be undertaken. This is therefore likely to result in Examination Hearing dates not being practical before February/March 2019.