

RICHARD BUXTON

ENVIRONMENTAL & PUBLIC LAW

19B Victoria Street
Cambridge CB1 1JP

Tel: (01223) 328933

Fax: (01223) 301308

www.richardbuxton.co.uk

law@richardbuxton.co.uk

Natural England
Area 1 C
Noble House
17 Smith Square
London SW1p 3JR

Copied to: Julie Lunt NE legal

Your ref: JAL/LEG01-012-011

Our ref: MCF1-001/LF

7 November 2013

Dear Sirs

Latchmore Brook Restoration Project (High Level Stewardship ref AG0030016)

We refer to your response of 13 September 2013 to our letter of 31 January 2013 concerning EIA screening and write now on a point of clarification and a response by 5pm on 15 November is requested.

On 20 December 2012 the New Forest National Park Authority (NFNPA) declined to carry out a screening on the basis that the nature of the project did not fall under the Town and Country Planning (England) Regulations 2011 (EIA regulations). Your letter of 13 September makes clear that Natural England does not agree. You state that "this is a matter where an EIA assessment should be properly carried out under the T&CP EIA Regulations" and go on to say that this has been advised to the NFNPA and the Forestry Commission.

Can you please clarify that your reference to "assessment" is to a full environmental statement and not merely a screening assessment. Our understanding of NE's position is that you have told NFNPA that it should require a full environmental assessment under the EIA regulations. We naturally would like to clarify our understanding is accurate so we can advise our clients on a clear understanding of NE's position. You will appreciate that there are informal discussions taking place between the parties to resolve issues so we do not intend to respond more fully to your letter at present in relation to the substantive issues we raised as to why an EIA would be required until we have clarification from yourselves. Your prompt response would be appreciated.

Yours faithfully



Richard Buxton

cc New Forest National Park Authority (Attn Julie Mutlow and Steve Avery)
Forestry Commission (Attn Mike Seddon)
Verderers of the New Forest (Attn Dominic May)