

Dear Mrs Skippers,

Examination of the Hanley Castle Neighbourhood Plan

Thank you for your letter drawing our attention to the recent judgement of the Court of Justice ruling in the case of 'People over Wind, Peter Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta'.

There are no internationally designated wildlife sites located within the Hanley Castle Parish Neighbourhood Area. For the purposes of the HRA screening assessment, internationally designated wildlife sites that fall within 20km were considered. There are three sites identified within this range – Bredon Hill SAC approximately 10km east, Lyppard Grange SAC approximately 13km north-east and Dixon Wood SAC approximately 18km south-east of the Hanley Castle Parish Neighbourhood Area.

Whilst the Hanley Castle Neighbourhood Plan seeks to allocate a number of small housing sites, the screening assessment does not seek to take account of any measures intended to reduce or avoid any harmful effects of the Plan on any European site due to the scale of the proposed allocations and their distance from such sites.

In light of the above, my professional opinion is that the HRA Screening Opinion for the Draft Hanley Castle Neighbourhood Plan remains robust and legally compliant in light of the above case law.

Yours sincerely,

David Clarke
Planning Officer