

RE: FE Cycling Proposals Sept 2024

From Thomas, Jennifer [REDACTED]
Date Thu 14/11/2024 17:18
To Sue Westwood [REDACTED]
Cc Edward Heron [REDACTED] Harding, Jenny
[REDACTED]

 1 attachment (219 KB)

Ltr to J Thomas, NE re FE Cycling proposals Sept 2024.pdf;

Dear Sue

Thank you for consulting us about Forestry England's (FE) proposal to promote responsible cycling and improve the off-road cycle network.

Natural England hasn't been formally consulted by FE and so I haven't looked at the proposal in any detail, but from a quick look at the presentment document content there does appear to be potential for an impact on the New Forest SAC, SPA, Ramsar and SSSI features.

For the purposes of this response, I am assuming that the Verderers of The New Forest are considered a 'competent authority', as are FE, within the definitions of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and a 28g body with respect to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 but please let me know if this is not the case.

As FE have asked for your consent, the Habitats Regulations assessment process needs to be followed and the Verderers as a 'competent authority' need to be confident that the plan will have no adverse effect on the integrity of the site, before giving permission.

As the proposal from Forestry England overlaps with Verderers of the New Forest areas of responsibility, I would recommend working together with FE to assess the proposal for any likely effects on the SAC, SPA, Ramsar, SSSI features and refine the plan as necessary.

FE have been in touch as they were aware that you would be consulting us and I will be responding to them today with our advice.

I would be happy to discuss the steps and scope of the necessary assessments if that would be helpful but in the meantime have added links to some useful information below.

[The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk)

[Habitats regulations assessments: protecting a European site - GOV.UK](#)

[Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981](#)

[Sites of special scientific interest: public body responsibilities - GOV.UK](#)

Please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss this further, I do have some availability on Monday afternoon if you have any questions before the next court.

Yours sincerely

Jenny

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From: Sue Westwood [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 October 2024 13:49
To: Thomas, Jennifer [REDACTED]
Cc: Edward Heron [REDACTED]
Subject: FE Cycling Proposals Sept 2024

Dear Jenny

I hope you are well. Please see attached a letter to you re FE's cycling proposals.

Kind regards

Sue

Miss Sue Westwood
Clerk to the Verderers
Tel: [REDACTED]

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