

Dear Planning Policy Team,

Thank you for consulting Breckland council on the draft Biodiversity and Trees Supplementary Planning Document. We have now had the opportunity to review the draft SPD and would like to provide the following comments in response.

Breckland Council's interest, with regard to the Biodiversity and Trees SPD, is on protecting and enhancing the natural environment of Breckland.

We'd like to highlight that the Redgrave and Lopham Site of Special Scientific Interest and the Waveney and Little Ouse Valley Fens Special Area of Conservation that are split between Breckland and Mid Suffolk. These designated sites are part of the key biodiversity sites and geological features in the District.

We'd like to draw attention the importance of creating nature networks. The BNG will be key in delivering and enhancing green and blue infrastructure. Consistent with policy ENV 02 (Retaining and Enhancing Green and Blue Infrastructure) in the emerging Breckland Local Plan, we encourage the proposed SPD to consider BNG delivery opportunities that is appropriate for local context and enhance creating nature networks and linking green infrastructure in line with wider strategic areas, when determining development proposals. These include linking green areas in the local vicinity of a site including designated areas of open space and local green space designations, Public Rights of Way and areas protected by environmental designations. These should be identified to explore possible opportunities for improving connectivity between sites, where appropriate, and in the context of balancing other planning considerations for the site.

Regards,

Laura Waters
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Planning Policy Manager