

Date: 28 January 2010

The logo for Natural England, featuring the words "NATURAL" and "ENGLAND" stacked vertically in a white, sans-serif font. The text is set against a solid yellow rectangular background.

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**By email only, no hard copy to follow**

Dear Jane

**Breadsell Lane allocation – Hydrological report**

Further to our meeting of 12 January 2010 regarding the hydrological report for the Breadsell Lane strategic housing allocation, Natural England can confirm its comments as follows:

Section 4.2 (recommendations and further work) of the hydrological report (Rigare, December 2009) concludes that the hydrology of the site is complex and that “*a basic understanding of the hydrological functioning of the site could be developed from the results of one full year of monitoring*”. Natural England had previously commented that a site specific understanding of the local hydrological and hydrogeological conditions of the site would be required in order to assess the environmental capacity of the site and to inform whether the proposals would result in an impact on Marline Valley SSSI.

As the report is unable to provide this information, Natural England does not consider that there is sufficient information, at this stage, to determine the impacts of the proposed allocation on the SSSI and that further studies, as recommended in the report would be required in order to address this. **Therefore Natural England maintains its strong objection to the inclusion of this site as a strategic allocation.**

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but in the meantime if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

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