

Date: 06 March 2026
Our ref: [REDACTED]
Your ref: Rugby Borough Local Plan Reg.19



Laurence Goodchild
Rugby Borough Council

BY EMAIL ONLY
LocalPlan@rugby.gov.uk



Dear Laurence Goodchild,

Rugby Borough Local Plan – Reg. 19 Submission Version

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 30 January 2026 which was received by Natural England on 30 January 2026

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Please note that our previous advice at Reg 18 (Reference 455348 – 31st January 2024) made recommendations into how the Plan could be strengthened. These recommendations remain valid and so is not repeated here. Please note that Natural England has not provided advice on all aspects of the plan, instead focusing on aspects within Natural England's remit; the absence of comments on a policy should not be taken as Natural England giving support.

You will find that our response format complies with Rugby Borough Local Plan Representation Part B layout. Thereafter we have merely provided additional broader comment that would strengthen the plan. NE has adopted a robust precautionary approach within this plan response.

Overview

We recognise that this consultation focuses itself upon a need to preliminarily test the potential for soundness. With this in mind, Natural England welcomes this positive, well prepare and justified plan for the future of Rugby Borough that is **sound and legally compliant**. We particularly welcome the numerous references to the natural environment throughout the plan.

Part B: Section 3

Policy S8: South West Rugby

The site at South West Rugby should aspire to Houlton as an exemplary site; this site represents a good opportunity to replicate the exemplary green infrastructure design.

SoCG Section 3.5: Site 17 Land at South West Rugby.

At the Preferred Options Stage (Regulation 18) we identified this as a sensitive location, and we note the reduction. The land was identified for circa 130,000m² of floorspace for employment use, and is now allocated for circa 60,000m² of floorspace for employment use.

Prologis Park Ryton expansion has been removed as an allocation since the Preferred Option consultation. It was within the IRZ for Brandon Marsh and Ryton Wood SSSIs.

Following comments in our previous response (455348) Natural England welcomes the submission of the [Habitats Regulations Assessment](#) (HRA) (*Lepus Consulting, December 2025*) for Regulation 19 of the Local Plan.

Following comments in our previous response (455348) Natural England welcomes the submission of the [Sustainability Appraisal](#) (SA) (*Aecom, December 2025*) for Regulation 19 of the Local Plan.

Part B: Section 4. Do you consider the Local Plan compliant?

1. Is legally compliant?

Yes, the Local Plan is legally compliant.

2. Is sound?

Yes, Natural England considers this Local Plan sound.

3. Complies with the Duty to Cooperate?

Natural England considers that Rugby Borough and the Local Plan complies with the Duty to Cooperate.

A Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) (*Our Ref: 542371*) has been produced between Rugby Borough Council and Natural England. The statement ratifies the constructive engagement between both parties, our Reg.18 response and the updates following this; including the submission of the HRA and SA.

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

For any queries regarding this letter, for new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk

Yours sincerely

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