

**Core Strategy and Development Plan 2015 – 2033
(CSDP) Examination**

**Statement of Common Ground
as agreed between
Sunderland City Council and
Natural England**

April 2019

Introduction

- 1.1 This Statement of Common Ground has been prepared jointly between Sunderland City Council (the Council) and Natural England (NE).
- 1.2 The Statement sets out the confirmed points of agreement between the Council and NE with regards to the submitted Core Strategy and Development Plan (CSDP) 2015-2033 and associated Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA).


Background

- 2.1 The Council submitted its CSDP in December 2018. As part of this, the Council submitted the city-wide HRA in support of the Plan, however it was recognised that additional work was required for sites HGA7 and HGA8.
- 2.2 In December 2018, the Council, Natural England and Hellens Group signed a Statement of Common Ground (SD.8k) for this work to be prepared and submitted in advance of the examination hearing sessions. This Statement of Common Ground should be read in conjunction with that previously submitted.
- 2.3 The Council have prepared an updated HRA for the Plan and a supplementary HRA for North Sunderland Regeneration sites which identifies the necessary mitigation for both HGA7 and HGA8, in addition to a number of other SHLAA sites within the Sunderland North spatial area. These documents have been submitted to the Inspector in support of the Plan


Agreed matters

- 3.1 The Council and NE are now satisfied that the additional work undertaken within these reports has satisfactorily met the requirements to undertake Appropriate Assessment under the Habitats Regulations and identifies the necessary mitigation to ensure that there would be no adverse impact upon the integrity of the European designated sites.
- 3.2 Natural England is satisfied that the revised HRA documents address their representations made in respect of the Publication Draft CSDP.

Statement of Common Ground

Signed on behalf of Sunderland City Council		
Name and position	Signature	Date
Catherine Auld Assistant Director of Economic Regeneration		25 April 2019

Signed on behalf of Natural England

Name and position	Signature	Date
Andrew Whitehead Team Leader – Sustainable Development and Marine		24 April 2019