

Burnham Beeches Special Area of Conservation Strategic Access and Mitigation Strategy Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

The Hitcham and Taplow Society makes the following submission to the consultation on this document.

The Society has been in existence for some sixty years. It has a main objective to ensure that all development within the district is of the highest standard and preserves the quality of the environment. It represents a significant proportion of the residents of Taplow.

The consultation document is acceptable as far as its current content is concerned but there are significant omissions compared with the current regulatory regime.

Specifically Burnham Beeches currently has the highest European level of protection for a nature conservation site. To our understanding this requires that any housing development within the 5.6km zone (which includes most of Taplow) must be accompanied by a “Suitable Alternate Natural Greenspace” provision. This is a crucial omission from the draft and the SPD should not be accepted without such inclusion.

Additionally the SPD should include reference to an Air Quality Management Strategy, without which the longer term survival of the Beeches will be seriously threatened.

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