

East England Forest District

Santon Downham

Brandon

Suffolk

IP27 OTJ

Charlotte Brennan
Programme Officer
Examination Office
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8th January 2018

Dear Charlotte,

Examination of the Breckland Local Plan (2011 -2036)

The public forest estate (PFE) is a unique asset held on behalf of the nation and managed by Forest Enterprise England. There are 11,360 hectares of PFE within the Breckland District Council boundary and of this, 10,498 hectares, are designated under the European Birds Directive as a Special Protection Area (Breckland SPA) plus the national designation as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (Breckland Forest SSSI).

The management of the PFE within the Breckland DC area is carried out by East England Forest District (EEFD) staff based at Santon Downham near Brandon. The EEFD management team were made aware of the Breckland Local Plan and some of the proposals within the plan would have a direct effect on the management and integrity of the designated sites under our management.

In particular, we would like to draw the Inspector's attention to the following proposals contained in the submitted document Adopted Thetford Area Action Plan DPD: Historic Past, Healthy Future:

Policy TH 9

12.4 ...A specific Bird Access and Monitoring Framework is provided...

12.5 Mobile wardens/ranger staff with a remit focused on access management...

12.5 Create permanent areas of habitat suitable for Woodlark & Nightjar...

Policy TH 12

12.34 With regard to the Thetford Forest Loop, the Forestry Commission actively promotes public access...

The above policy points all require access to the PFE and cooperation/partnership with Forest Enterprise England; Breckland DC have not contacted us regarding the above points of policy or involved us in their development.

Regards

Richard Brooke
Planning & Environment Manager
via email