

From: [SMA-NF-Consultations \(NE\)](#)
To: [Sandwell Local Plan](#)
Subject: FAQ Mr Andy Miller REF: Main Modifications proposed by Sandwell Council
Date: 16 May 2025 09:13:04
Attachments: [main001.png](#)
[Natural England Local Plan Advice Note Feb 24.docx](#)

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Our Ref: 510931
Your Ref: Sandwell Local Plan - Main Modifications

Dear Mr Miller

Thank you for your consultation request dated and received by Natural England on 28th April 2025.

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.

Proposed additional site allocation (Rowley Regis Golf Course – new housing allocation of 250 dwellings)

We note that this housing allocation will reduce the available greenspace in the area for public access and that it is adjacent to a SINC site. We encourage the incorporation of appropriate functional and attractive Green Infrastructure and Urban Greening Factor (UGF) as part of the site, so that the nature conservation value of the adjacent SINC is not undermined as a stepping stone for nature.

Natural England has no other significant comments to make on the Main Modifications for the Local Plan.

The lack of comment from Natural England should not be interpreted as a statement that there are no impacts on the natural environment. Other bodies and individuals may wish to make comments that might help the Local Planning Authority (LPA) to fully take account of any environmental risks and opportunities relating to this document.

If you disagree with our assessment of this proposal as low risk, or should the proposal be amended in a way which significantly affects its impact on the natural environment, then in accordance with Section 4 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, please consult Natural England again.

Yours sincerely

Sharon Jenkins
Assistant Officer
Natural England
Consultation Service

Email: consultations@naturalengland.org.uk
www.gov.uk/natural-england



Natural England offers two chargeable services - the Discretionary Advice Service, which provides pre-application and post-consent advice on planning/licensing proposals to developers and consultants, and the Pre-submission Screening Service for European Protected Species mitigation licence applications. These services help applicants take appropriate account of environmental considerations at an early stage of project development, reduce uncertainty, the risk of delay and added cost at a later stage, whilst securing good results for the natural environment.

For further information on the Discretionary Advice Service see [here](#)

For further information on the Pre-submission Screening Service see [here](#)

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