

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR ASSESSOR TO SOUTH EAST RSS

To consider representations relating to the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (TBH) and English Nature's Delivery Plan and prepare a report for the Panel on the practicality and deliverability of the Delivery Plan and its implications for the RSS prior to the EIP sessions on the Western Corridor/Blackwater Valley and London Fringe sub-regions in March 2007.

To include: -

- (i) Considering all submissions relating to biodiversity and the sub-regional policies of the RSS which refer to the Thames Basin Heath SPA;
- (ii) Examining the Plan, Sustainability Appraisal, Implementation Plan and other background documents in so far as they are relevant to the TBH, (including audit of costs and availability of mitigation land, peer review of evidence underpinning EN delivery project and study of on-site mitigation and accessibility management);
- (iii) Attending Panel meetings as necessary;
- (iv) Attending Pre-examination meetings, as necessary;
- (v) Undertaking appropriate site visits;
- (vi) Holding 3 technical data meetings to refine the issues relating to the TBH and the Delivery Plan and the implications for the RSS, including deciding on participants, preparing agendas, reading position papers and other background documents;
- (vii) Advising the Panel on the outcome of the technical data meetings and on focussed issues for debate;
- (viii) Attending EIP session relating to biodiversity and natural resource management;
- (ix) Preparing a report for the Panel on the TBH SPA on whether the EN delivery plan is a sound solution for the area, focussing on the appropriateness of the zonal approach; the package of mitigation measures suggested in the plan of on-site mitigation, off-site compensation and access management; the realism of the mitigation land standards set by EN; and the impact that these measures might have. The report should make recommendations for improvements to the delivery plan, where necessary, or suggest an alternative delivery plan and comment on its implications for the RSS (report to be submitted and circulated to parties prior to the EIP sessions on the Western Corridor/Blackwater Valley and London Fringe sub-regions in time for them to prepare additional statements as necessary).
- (x) If necessary prepare an addendum report on the subject of English Nature's on-site mitigation measures and accessibility management study immediately prior to the EIP sessions.
- (xi) Attend, as necessary, the EIP sessions on the relevant sub-regional areas.
- (xii) If required prepare a final addendum report following these later EIP sessions.

N.B The Assessor would not examine the proposed mini-delivery plans or SPD, except insofar as they have strategic relevance to the strategy set out in the RSS.

It will be for the Panel to consider the implications of the Assessor's report on the ability of the two sub-regions to achieve the housing provision figures set out in draft RSS, and any alternative growth levels and spatial options examined.

PROVISIONAL TIMINGS

6 September 2006	Undertake initial site visits
7 September 2006	Attend 1 st Pre-examination meeting
6 October 2006	Circulate paper outlining possible matters to be considered at 1 st technical meeting and send out invitations to attend
30 October 2006	Position papers to be submitted by participants for first technical meeting
6 November 2006	Agenda for 1 st technical meeting to be circulated
21 – 23 Nov 2006	1 st technical meeting on SPA (to follow more open format to allow all parties to comment generally on issues)
1 December 2006	Invitations to 2 nd technical meeting with further paper outlining matters to be discussed and agenda
18 - 20 Dec 2006	2 nd technical meeting on SPA (more focussed meeting to consider outstanding issues)
10 January 2007	Brief initial informal advisory report to RSS Panel
15 or 16 Jan 2007	EIP session on biodiversity and natural resource management
1 February 2007	Final visits
2 February 2007	Provisional date for 3 rd technical data meeting (to consider EN study relating to on-site mitigation measures and accessibility management)
19 February 2007	Full report to EIP Panel (to be published on website and circulated to participants at relevant sub-regional sessions)
5 March 2007	Possible addendum report re on-site mitigation measures and accessibility management
19-30 March 2007	W Corridor/Blackwater Valley and London Fringe EIP sessions
13 April 2007	Addendum report if required.