

## **Greater Norwich Local Plan - Inspectors Matters Issues and Questions (MIQ) (Part 1)**

**Natural England's Representations – 17 January 2022 (our ref: 377767)**

### **Matter 1 – Compliance with statutory procedures and legal matters**

**Issue 3 : Has the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) been undertaken in accordance with the Regulations and is it robust?**

#### **2. Is the GIRAMS Strategy robust and is it likely to be effective?**

Natural England welcomes and supports the preparation of a Norfolk Green Infrastructure and Recreational impact Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (GIRAMS), involving all of the Norfolk authorities working together, to help mitigate the recreational effects likely to arise as a result of increased housing over the respective Local Plan periods on sensitive designated sites. It delivers Natural England's advice that provision of enhanced Green Infrastructure (GI) is needed within all new residential developments with year round connections to the local countryside. The GIRAMS will help to ensure that proposed housing allocations in relevant Local Plans, and residential planning applications, which have the potential to impact on Habitats Sites, are compliant with the Habitats Regulations.

**3. The 'Interim Statement of Common Ground between the Greater Norwich Authorities and Natural England on the GIRAMS' states that: "the Partners and other LPAs are mindful that the governance, success factors for the scheme and other process points including apportionment, joint decision-making and prioritisation still need to be finalised". When is it anticipated that these arrangements will be finalised?**

Natural England has been working closely with all the Norfolk Local Planning Authorities to produce the Norfolk GIRAMS, and are very close to producing a finalised Statement of Common Ground (with all the relevant LPAs) which will provide greater clarity on the process and timescales for finalising these arrangements.