Dear Mr Clarke,

South London Waste Plan Development Plan Document
Proposed Submission Version

Thank you for your letter and enclosures dated 21 December 2010, requesting Natural England’s views and comments on the above planning application.

Natural England is the Government agency that works to conserve and enhance biodiversity and landscapes, promote access to the natural environment, and contribute to the way natural resources are managed so that they can be enjoyed now and by future generations.

I have now had the opportunity to look through the documentation submitted, and am issuing this letter as our formal comments on the consultation.

Evidence Base 7: Nature Conservation Considerations
National Policy background – paragraphs 2.1 to 2.7 are welcomed and commended for inclusion. Natural England’s comments under 3.2 are also acknowledged.

The conclusion under section 6, paragraph 6.1 indicating the potential requirement for developers to undertake “appropriate assessments” where applicable is also welcomed and supported.

South London Waste Plan - Proposed Submission
Natural England is pleased to see the inclusion of Climate Change, through the reduction of waste and waste processes.

WP3: Existing Waste Management and Waste Transfer Sites
Site 18: Viridor Recycling – Beddington Lane
Natural England acknowledges the location of this existing, and operational site together with the adjacent Thames Water site. The statement that upon expiration of the existing permissions for the Viridor site, the land will be remediated and incorporated into the Wandle Valley Regional Park, by 2023 is welcomed and strongly supported. Schedule 1 – page 37 refers.
Paragraphs 4.50 and 4.51 identify constraints (showstoppers) such as European Designated sites and Strategic Open Land. These designations identify the areas and sites of interest to Natural England and therefore acceptable to Natural England as constraints.

**WP5: Windfall Sites for Waste Management Facility Development**
Natural England broadly supports this Policy, especially in respect of (D) (i) – sites will not have an adverse effect on nature conservation areas, together with not adversely affecting Strategic Open Land, nature conservation areas or public rights of way.

**WP7: Protecting and Enhancing Amenity**
The consideration of impacts upon strategic open land and biodiversity is welcomed and to be encouraged.

**Section 5: Site Descriptions**
Natural England does not wish to offer any substantive comments on this section. However, Natural England wishes to be consulted on the individual applications as they are brought forward or developed.

The Policies, Plans and Programmes identified in Appendix 2 are acceptable and appropriate.

**Deliverability of Sites**
Natural England is pleased to see, welcomes and supports the rehabilitation of the Viridor site to form part of the Wandle valley Park by 2023 – paragraph 3.1.21 refers.

**Habitats Regulations (Appropriate Assessment) Screening Report**
Natural England agrees to the approach and methodology used in the consultation document, and the overall conclusion, that stage two and three of the Habitats Regulation Assessment, requiring a full Appropriate Assessment, in this instance and in respect of this document, is not required, would be acceptable and agreeable to Natural England.

**Sustainability Appraisal**
Paragraph 5.48 refers to the Wandle Valley Regional Park which is welcomed and supported.

The issues identified in the Sustainability Appraisal covers the areas and topics that Natural England would wish to see considered by such a document. Also the Policies, Plans, Strategies and Programmes listed in Appendix 2 are appropriate and in line with legislative requirements.

I trust that the above is sufficient for your purposes, but should you have any further questions or wish to discuss any aspects of this document please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely,

David Hammond
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Natural England London Region

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