

## **Natural England Representation**

Thank you for consulting Natural England on the Thruxton Neighbourhood Development Plan. Natural England supports the inclusion in the plan of policies to protect and enhance the natural features and sites within the area and the landscape setting of the neighbourhood. We have the following comments on specific policies:

### **Policy EN4: Biodiversity**

In the Defra 25 Year Environment Plan, the Government has committed to making sure the existing requirements for net gain for biodiversity in national planning policy are strengthened and the current trend of biodiversity loss is halted. Net biodiversity gain ensures that all residual losses from a development are accounted for and addressed. Each scheme will then provide additional biodiversity gain over and above the residual loss. You may wish to reword this policy to ask all developments to achieve a net gain for biodiversity and wildlife habitats, including buffering and creating links to existing sites.