

Cover note

We have produced a draft determination report for two renewal applications at Catfield, Norfolk.

The draft determination report:

- explains how the applications have been considered;
- shows how all relevant factors have been taken into account in our decision making process; and
- justifies the draft decision including the change in decision from our previous assessment in March 2014.

The draft determination report forms the basis of our public 'minded to' consultation which we are undertaking as a result of the high amount of both local and national interest. This document can be found on sharefile under the heading of 'Minded To Public Consultation'.

What information does the draft determination report cover?

The draft determination report has been split into the following sections;

Sections 1, 2 and 4	These sections provide a summary of the proposals and the application details.
Section 3	This describes the history behind the applications including information on the Ant Broads and Marshes SSSI.
Section 5	This describes how the applicant has justified their water requirements and how they use water efficiently.
Section 6	This describes how the applications have been publicised.
Sections 7 and 8	This describes how we have consulted on the applications – both internally and externally with consultation bodies.
Section 9	This section contains the main technical assessment of the applications including the Water Framework Directive, impact on groundwater, impact on ecology and conservation, Habitats Directive and Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and how we have dealt with any representations received to date.
Sections 10 to 14	These sections cover our assessment of the costs and benefits of the applications, biodiversity and sustainable development, time limits and how the abstractions are measured.
Section 15	This describes our duties arising from legislation and how we have met them.
Section 16	This is the overall draft conclusion and recommendations for the renewal applications.

The document is a draft at this stage because we have yet to make a final decision. Before we make this decision we want to explain our thinking to all interested parties. You have the opportunity to comment should you not agree with our 'minded to' decision or our thinking behind it.

All comments must be with us by 23.59 on Monday 15 December. Comments can be received either by email to NPS-WR-Ipswich@environment-agency.gov.uk

Or by post to;

National Permitting Service – Water Resources

Iceni House

Cobham Road

Ipswich

Suffolk

IP3 9JD

Your comments should consider the following questions:

- Is there anything that you perceive to be inaccurate in the draft determination report?
- In there anything we have not considered that we should have?
- Has any information become available in the time since the first public consultation took place in October 2012?

We will make our final decision only after carefully taking into account any relevant matters raised in the responses we receive.

Our draft decision is based on our consideration of all the relevant evidence made available to us. However, it is not our final decision and, at this stage, it can be influenced by the representations you make during the consultation. Once the consultation has closed we will consider your comments and make a final decision. When we communicate our final decision we will publish accompanying documents that will let you know how we reached our decision and how we considered your comments. If we do not receive any comments our draft decision will become our final decision.

We will aim to make our final decision by mid-February 2015 and by 31 March 2015 at the latest.

Processes and terminology

Our draft determination report may give the impression that our final decision has been reached, this is not the case. The language we use enables this document to become the final document in due course with no more re-drafting than is absolutely necessary.

We try to explain our decision as accurately, comprehensively and plainly as possible. A lot of technical terms and acronyms are inevitable in a document of this nature and so for ease of reference we have provided a glossary of terms. We have also included a reference list of any supporting documents we have used to help us make our draft decision. All of these documents can be found on sharefile in the folder named 'References'. Sharefile is available at the following link; <https://ea.sharefile.com/i/i782703d1d0c4b099>.

We have restructured the documents on sharefile to make it easier for you to navigate. We have updated the sharefile index to show this change.

Consultation with Natural England (NE) and the Broads Authority (BA)

The consultation documents sent to NE and BA are available on sharefile under the heading of 'Assessments – March 2014'.

These documents are our assessment under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 and our assessment under Section 28I of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW).

We received extensive comments from NE and the BA on our assessments (available under the heading of "May 2014" on sharefile). As a result of their comments we have undertaken further investigations and updated our assessment documents. The updated assessments state the extra information received from the consultation, what further work we have undertaken and how this has influenced our draft decision. These updated assessments are available on sharefile under the heading of 'Minded To Public Consultation'.

In completing these updated assessments, we have considered a large range of information. We have referenced the sources of information considered, all of which are now publicly available on sharefile under the heading named 'References'.

17 November 2014