

**Melton Neighbourhood Plan – Further Questions from the Examiner
Policy MEL21 Land off Wilford Bridge Road**

1. The RSPB representation make comments about the need for a project level HRA and contributions to the strategic mitigation scheme. The Suffolk Wildlife Trust highlights the need to protect Protected Species and Priority Species and Habitats that may be on the site or affected by the development.

2. I would be grateful for the QB and LPA comments on the following suggested additional criteria to Policy MEL21 to address these points.

Add an additional criterion: *“A project level Habitats Regulation Assessment should be carried out and measures should be secured to ensure that the development does not have an adverse impact on international habitats. Where appropriate, developer contributions should be secured through a planning agreement towards the strategic mitigation scheme for impacts on international sites”*.
Add an additional criterion: *“Development should avoid having an adverse impact on Protected Species and Priority Species and Habitats”*.

Response

The qualifying body and local planning authority are happy with your suggested additional criteria (below) and propose wording (below) on Recreational Avoidance Mitigation Strategy.

3. Would you supply me with some text to explain the role of the “Recreational Avoidance Mitigation Strategy” for inclusion in the justification.

Response

Proposed wording on Recreational Avoidance Mitigation Strategy: *“The Habitats Regulations Assessment Recreational Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy is a means by which sustainable housing growth can be delivered in Suffolk Coastal District, and neighbouring Ipswich Borough and Babergh District, facilitating development whilst at the same time adequately protecting European wildlife sites from harm that could otherwise potentially occur because of increased recreation pressure arising from the new housing growth.”*