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23 July 2024

Thank you for consulting Norfolk Wildlife Trust on the Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan, (Regulation 16).  
Please see our comments below:

### **Natural Environment**

We note and welcome the amendment to the following sentence; 'The Environment Act (2021)...' in clause 151 of the Natural Environment section.

### **RNP Policy 7: Biodiversity**

We welcome the reference in the Environment Section, clause 144, to the two Roadside Nature Reserves within the NP area: RNR 35 on Docking Road and RNR 76 on Peddars Way South.

We support and welcome the inclusion of the strengthened policy wording in the first few paragraphs of this policy regarding County Wildlife Sites, Priority Habitats, Roadside Nature Reserves and other important wildlife/high biodiversity habitats. This will be important in affording greater protection for these valuable sites and habitats.

We also welcome the inclusion of the following, 'Buffer zones should be considered and encouraged around sensitive sites, where appropriate, and where this will provide ecological benefits.'

Under the 'Biodiversity Net Gain' section, at point 'd' the following wording is unclear; '...county wildlife sites or priority habitats to those sites' We recommend inserting the following wording, or similar; '...Contribute towards enhancing, restoring or maintaining existing green infrastructure, such as county wildlife sites, Priority Habitats etc. and strengthening green corridors to link habitats and improve connectivity for wildlife.'

### **RNP Community Action 1: Biodiversity Net Gain Credits**

We support the inclusion of this community action as this has the potential to improve the condition of these valuable sites. (A technical error: 'to see if there could **be** a...')

### **RNP Policy 8: Local Green Space**

We support the 8 designated Local Green Spaces. Green spaces provide important habitats for wildlife and can act as wildlife corridors

### **RNP Policy 9: Landscape Quality**



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We particularly welcome and support the inclusion of the following policy wording under the 'Dark Skies' section; 'Development proposals should demonstrate compliance with best practice guidance for avoiding artificial lighting impacts on bats...'

### **RNP Policy 10: Surface Water Management**

We support this policy as Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) are extremely important in reducing flood risk, reducing pollution locally, increasing biodiversity and when used effectively can provide habitat connectivity.

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