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Your ref: JM/EL/LDO/Samlesbury 2012

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Dear Mr Macholc

## **Lancashire Enterprise Zone - Proposed Local Development Order**

### **Samlesbury Aerodrome**

Thank you for consulting us about the proposed Local Development Order (LDO) relating to advanced engineering manufacturing uses at land within parcel A Samlesbury Aerodrome, Samlesbury.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development. Our role is to support the Government's wider strategic policies and fulfil the aims and objectives set for us by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

This letter provides Natural England's response to the proposed LDO in the context Reg 78 of the Habitats Regulations (Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. SI no 2010/490) and Circular 1/06 paragraph 18 European sites. Natural England would normally have expected to see a separate HRA screening report accompanying the draft LDO.

Natural England notes that the boundary between Ribble Valley and South Ribble Borough Councils runs through the LDO site and there is a single consultation but each Local Planning Authority will be adopting a separate but identical LDO.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) I note that in response to a request for an EIA Screening Opinion, the Council has concluded that the development is not proposed in a particularly sensitive or vulnerable location nor would it have unusually complex and potentially hazardous environmental effects. Specifically it concludes that the development site does not appear to extend into an area that would have an impact on the local ecology and habitats and there are no international or national designations affecting the site. Therefore, the Council considers that an EIA is not necessary.

South Ribble Borough Council Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of Preferred Options Site Allocations and Development Policies DPD. This HRA included the Samlesbury site as a "major site for development - employment led" and it was screened out of the HRA. The HRA concluded that there are no likely significant effects arising from the Preferred Options Site Allocations and Development Policies DPD, a conclusion with which Natural England has agreed.

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South Ribble Borough Council Consultation on Policy C4 BAe Systems Samlesbury. Natural England has commented on this specific consultation that includes the area covered by the proposed LDO. We agreed that the allocation would not be likely to have a significant effect on European sites.

Therefore, bearing in mind:

- the proposed Use to be permitted under the LDO;
- an EIA is not considered necessary;
- the site has been subject to two HRAs within site specific South Ribble Policies; and
- taking into account Regulation 78 of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 ("The Habitats Regulations");

**Natural England does not consider that the development included in the LDO will have a likely significant effect on a European site.**

If I can provide any further advice relating to this consultation, please do not hesitate to contact me. For all other correspondence, please contact the address above.

Yours sincerely



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