

## APPENDIX 2.5 APPLICANT'S LEGAL RESPONSE TO FORMAL EIA SCOPING OPINION



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Our ref: LGL/SJA/035353.00001

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Dear Ms Thatcher

## Former Stag Brewery - draft scoping opinion

Our client is grateful for the considerable time invested by the Council in the preparation of the Scoping Opinion, a copy of which has been provided to us by Gerald Eve. Please note that we have advised our client that the Opinion significantly exceeds the proper scope of an opinion, and is wrong in some of the express and implied criticisms.

However, as the Opinion has been issued, we take this to mean that the Council do not wish the applicant to seek a Scoping Direction from the Secretary of State. Accordingly, they will not do so.

Our client's consultants will prepare an Environmental Statement which complies with the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2011, and addresses any relevant points raised by the Scoping Opinion. The Environmental Statement or the papers supporting the planning application will provide appropriate sign-posting to direct the reader to where relevant issues identified in the Scoping Opinion have been addressed.

Please can you make sure that this letter is placed alongside the Scoping Opinion in the planning application file, both on and off line. We do not want consultees or the public to think that the applicant accepts the views in the Opinion or will necessarily be responding to them in the Environmental Statement.

Please let us know if it would assist to discuss this.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Ashworth

Partner

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