

Date: 23 June 2014
Our ref: 122128
Your ref: Neighbourhood Plan



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BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Ms Taylor

Planning consultation: Hough on the Hill Draft Neighbourhood Plan – Pre-submission consultation

Thank you for your consultation on the above document which was received by Natural England on 29 May 2014

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.

Natural England generally welcomes the Neighbourhood Plan and considers that it provides a useful framework for the future of the community.

We welcome the inclusion of the Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) for Hough on the Hill which provides very useful evidence for assisting with the conservation and enhancement of the unique landscape of the parish. We also are pleased to acknowledge the reference that the LCA makes to the National Character Areas.

We particularly welcome policies HoH10 and HoH11 which encourages the protection of green spaces, nature conservation and the landscape character of the parish.

The following is offered as advice to assist the Town/Parish Council.

Natural England, together with the Environment Agency, English Heritage and Forestry Commission has published joint advice on neighbourhood planning which sets out sources of environmental information and ideas on incorporating the environment into plans. This is available at: http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140328084648/http://cdn.environment-agency.gov.uk/lit_6524_7da381.pdf

Local environmental record centres hold a range of information on the natural environment. A list of local records centre is available at: <http://www.nbn-nfbr.org.uk/nfbr.php>

Protected species

You should consider whether your plan has any impacts on legally protected species. To help you do this, Natural England has produced standing advice to help understand the impact of particular developments on protected or Biodiversity Action Plan species should they be identified as an issue. The standing advice also sets out when, following receipt of survey information, you should



undertake further consultation with Natural England. [Natural England Standing Advice](#)

Opportunities for enhancing the natural environment

Neighbourhood plans may provide opportunities to enhance the character and local distinctiveness of the surrounding natural and built environment; use natural resources more sustainably and bring benefits for the local community, for example through green space provision and access to and contact with nature.

Opportunities to incorporate features into new build or retro fitted buildings which are beneficial to wildlife, such as the incorporation of roosting opportunities for bats or the installation of bird nest boxes should also be considered as part of any new development proposal.

If, as you develop your plan, you consider that it will significantly impact on designated nature conservation sites or protected species or has other significant impacts on the natural environment then you should consult Natural England again.

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but if in the meantime you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Roslyn Deeming on 0300 060 1524. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

We really value your feedback to help us improve the service we offer. We have attached a feedback form to this letter and welcome any comments you might have about our service.

Yours sincerely

Roslyn Deeming
Land Use Adviser
Development Plans Network