

Date: 16 May 2016  
Our ref: 182933  
Your ref: Chelveston cum Caldecott Neighbourhood Plan



Customer Services  
Hornbeam House  
Crewe Business Park  
Electra Way  
Crewe  
Cheshire  
CW1 6GJ

T 0300 060 3900

[planningpolicy@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk)

## BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Sir/Madam

### **Planning consultation:** Chelveston cum Caldecott Neighbourhood Plan (Reg 16)

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated and received by Natural England on 07 April 2016.

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 has reviewed the neighbourhood plan and we have the following comments to make:

The background to the Neighbourhood Plan within section 1.1, should also reference the HRA screening document.

We suggest within the Neighbourhood Plan Objectives, that an additional objective is included which states that "development which has the potential to impact on the nearby Nene Valley Special Protection Area, particularly in relation to recreational disturbance will not be permitted".

Section 4.1 – this section should mention the nearby Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area and Ramsar site. *"The site extends for around 35 kilometres and covers around 1,370 hectares. It is designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for its international importance as wetland habitat for non-breeding waterbirds. The site is also protected under the Ramsar Convention as a wetland of international importance and is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The SPA itself is a composite site, is not uniform, and contains 20 separate blocks of land and water fragmented by various features, extending along the Nene Valley. The various blocks of the SPA have different sensitivities, some being more sensitive to development and recreational disturbance than others".*

### **HRA Issues**

Natural England has looked at the HRA screening and the Draft local plan. We have noticed that some of the allocations identified in the neighbourhood plan are within the 3km zone of influence for the SPA. The HRA of the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy identified that any new residential developments which are within 3Km of the Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA would have a likely significant effect, due to recreational disturbance impacts. As a result of this finding a Mitigation Strategy is being developed to ensure the required mitigation measures are delivered. The HRA screening for this Neighbourhood Plan identified that allocations were beyond the 3Km zone of influence and would therefore not have a likely significant effect. We have now discovered that the measuring of the distance from the SPA is actually incorrect for some of the allocation sites.

Therefore to ensure the neighbourhood plan is compliant with the Habitats Regulations, in addition to the above suggested changes we also advise the following:

1. The neighbourhood plan includes an additional bullet point in Policy H6 (Developer contributions) which requires developers to make a contribution to any mitigation measures as deemed necessary in the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Mitigation Strategy, to ensure there is no adverse effect either alone or in-combination with other plans or developments.
2. The HRA of the Neighbourhood Plan is rescreened and the justification for concluding no LSE is changed to say that any new development which results in additional residential dwellings will comply with the mitigation measures set out in the mitigation strategy for the Joint Core Strategy.
3. Policy H6 (developer contributions) – an additional bullet point is needed which specifies that any new development which results in a net gain in residential units will make an appropriate contribution to deliver any required mitigation measures as specified in the NNJCS Mitigation Strategy.

We appreciate that this advice is different to that which we gave in our response dated 17 December 2014 and in February 2015. However, from reviewing our previous response in 2014 it appears that at that point we hadn't seen a copy of the detailed draft neighbourhood plan. The advice was also based on an allocation for 9 houses which already had outline planning permission. The application of the 3Km zone of influence has been developing since the last consultation on the neighbourhood plan. Hopefully the suggestions we have made should resolve the Habitats Regulations compliance issue.

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 Sarah Fraser on 02080 261725. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to [consultations@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto: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 faithfully

Sarah Fraser  
Northamptonshire Local Delivery Team