

Date: 04 April 2017
Our ref: 210349
Your ref: Irchester Neighbourhood Plan SEA & HRA



Irchester Parish Council
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BY EMAIL ONLY

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Dear Sir/Madam

Screening consultation: Irchester, Knuston and Little Irchester Neighbourhood Plan - Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment.

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated and received by Natural England on 07 March 2017.

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.

Screening Request: Strategic Environmental Assessment

It is our advice, on the basis of the material supplied with the consultation, that, in so far as our strategic environmental interests are concerned (including but not limited to statutory designated sites, landscapes and protected species, geology and soils), that there are unlikely to be significant environmental effects from the proposed plan.

We are not aware of significant populations of protected species which are likely to be affected by the policies / proposals within the plan. It remains the case, however, that the responsible authority should provide information supporting this screening decision, sufficient to assess whether protected species are likely to be affected.

Notwithstanding this advice, Natural England does not routinely maintain locally specific data on all potential environmental assets. As a result the responsible authority should raise environmental issues that we have not identified on local or national biodiversity action plan species and/or habitats, local wildlife sites or local landscape character, with its own ecological and/or landscape advisers, local record centre, recording society or wildlife body on the local landscape and biodiversity receptors that may be affected by this plan, before determining whether an SEA is necessary.

Please note that Natural England reserves the right to provide further comments on the environmental assessment of the plan beyond this SEA screening stage, should the responsible

authority seek our views on the scoping or environmental report stages. This includes any third party appeal against any screening decision you may make.

Habitats Regulation Assessment

I can also confirm that Natural England agrees with the report's conclusions that the Irchester Neighbourhood Plan, is in line with the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy and will contribute to the mitigation strategy payments required for the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area (SPA). Thus the plan would not be likely to result in a significant effect on any European Site, either alone or in combination and therefore no further assessment work would be required.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Kayleigh Cheese on 02080 260981. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

Kayleigh Cheese
Northamptonshire Local Delivery Team