



Date: 17 December 2014
 Our ref: 137517
 Your ref: None



Mike Burton
 Senior Planning Policy Officer
 East Northamptonshire Council

www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk

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

T 0300 060 3900

BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Mike

Planning consultation: Chelveston cum Caldecott Neighbourhood Plan – HRA/SEA Screening Opinion

Thank you for your consultation on the above document which was received by Natural England on 18 November 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 welcomes the Screening Report which assesses the requirement for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) for the Chelveston cum Caldecott Neighbourhood Plan. We note that the reports are made in advance of the formal consultation.

Habitat Regulations Assessment

From the information that you have provided we understand that the Chelveston cum Caldecott Neighbourhood Plan will set out policies for the future development of the town including small scale housing, farm diversification, traffic management and parking, renewables, protection of open space and the rights of way network. We understand from the screening report that the largest development site proposed in the parish is for 9 houses, which has now been granted outline planning permission. The remaining policies in the plan do not identify or allocate any other development sites. We also acknowledge that the parish is at least 3km from the Upper Nene Gravel Pits Special Protection Area (SPA) and outside Natural England's 200m "area of concern" for schemes of over 100 dwellings.

From the evidence set out in your screening opinion it would seem unlikely that Likely Significant Effects (LSE) would result from the Neighbourhood Plan alone. However, until we have seen the Draft Neighbourhood Plan and the detailed proposals and policy wording we are unable to confirm whether or not there would be any LSE. Also the Screening report needs to consider the impacts of the Neighbourhood Plan in combination with other plans, it is unclear as to whether this in combination assessment has been undertaken. This in combination assessment is a requirement of the Habitats Regulations and must therefore be completed to ensure compliance.

2. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

As you know the North Northamptonshire Core Strategy Review and the Four Towns Plan are currently being prepared and therefore the Sustainability Appraisal cannot be relied upon until adoption. However as the Neighbourhood Plan is not proposing any new development allocations it is considered unlikely that any significant environmental effects will result from the implementation of the Plan.

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
Adviser
Sustainable Development Team
East Midlands Area