

Date: 17 February 2014  
Our ref: 109630  
Your ref: None



Deborah Frith  
Senior Environmental Consultant  
Lepus Consulting Ltd  
321 Eagle Tower  
Montpellier Drive  
Cheltenham  
GL50 1TA  
[deborah.frith@lepusconsulting.com](mailto:deborah.frith@lepusconsulting.com)

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

T 0300 060 3900

**BY EMAIL ONLY**

Dear Ms Frith

**SEA Scoping Consultation for Stratford-upon-Avon Neighbourhood Development Plan**

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 14 January 2014 which was received by Natural England on the same date.

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.

Where Neighbourhood Plans could have significant environmental effects, they may require a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) under the Environment Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. Further guidance on deciding whether the proposals are likely to have significant environmental effects and the requirements for consulting Natural England on SEA are set out in the National Planning Practice Guidance at:

<http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal/does-a-neighbourhood-plan-require-a-sustainability-appraisal/>

Natural England is generally satisfied that the SEA scoping report appears to have been based on robust evidence and information and that it demonstrates a reasonable understanding of the context for the Neighbourhood Plan in terms of relevant key environmental issues and trends. Overall Natural England considers that the report provides a reasonable baseline with respect to the natural environment within the Neighbourhood Plan Area. We also consider the topics scoped in for further consideration and the proposed sustainability objectives appear appropriate.

In the list of plans and policies in Appendix B, we recommend adding the following legislation:

- *The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010* (the Habitats Directive)
- *The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000*
- *The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006*

We would hope to see green infrastructure as a strong feature of the emerging Neighbourhood Plan, and would therefore welcome reference to the Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Sub-Regional Green Infrastructure Study within the SEA.

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 Hayley Fleming on 0300 060 1594. 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 sincerely

Hayley Fleming  
Land Use Operations (Development Plans Network)