

From: [Ash, Merlin \(NE\)](#)
To: [Hubery, Teresa](#)
Subject: RE: Doncaster: Bawtry Neighbourhood Plan (Screening Opinion)
Date: 21 June 2018 11:20:24

Dear Teresa,

Apologies for the delay in getting back you. Unfortunately John King is no longer working at Natural England. We have considered the screening document and are content with the conclusions reached.

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.

Guidance on the assessment of Neighbourhood Plans in light of the SEA Directive is contained within the National Planning Practice Guidance. The guidance highlights three triggers that may require the production of an SEA, for instance where:

- a neighbourhood plan allocates sites for development
- the neighbourhood area contains sensitive natural or heritage assets that may be affected by the proposals in the plan
- the neighbourhood plan may have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through a sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan.

We have checked our records and based on the information provided, we can confirm that in our view the proposals contained within the plan will not have significant effects on sensitive sites that Natural England has a statutory duty to protect.

We are not aware of significant populations of protected species which are likely to be affected by the policies and 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 SA/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/SA 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.

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.communities.gov.uk/blog/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal/sustainability-appraisal-requirements-for-neighbourhood-plans>

Where a neighbourhood plan could potentially affect a European protected site, it will be necessary to screen the plan in relation to the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017), as amended (the 'Habitats Regulations'). One of the basic conditions that will be tested at Examination is whether the making of the plan is compatible with European obligations and this includes requirements relating to the Habitats Directive, which is transposed into the Habitats Regulations.

In accordance with Schedule 2 of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, a

neighbourhood plan cannot be made if the likelihood of significant effects on any European Site, either alone (or in combination with other plans and projects) cannot be ruled out. Therefore, measures may need to be incorporated into the neighbourhood plan to ensure that any likely significant effects are avoided in order to secure compliance with the Regulations. A screening exercise should be undertaken if there is any doubt about the possible effects of the plan on European protected sites. This will be particularly important if a neighbourhood plan is to progress before a local plan has been adopted and/or the neighbourhood plan proposes development which has not been assessed and/or included in the Habitats Regulations Assessment for the local plan.

Natural England agrees with the assessment of no likely significant effects in relation to the Bawtry Neighbourhood Plan, however we advise that you carefully consider the potential for in-combination effects with the emerging Doncaster Local Plan.

We hope this advice is helpful? If you have any further questions please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Merlin

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These services help applicants take appropriate account of environmental considerations at an early stage of project development, reduce uncertainty, reduce the risk of delay and added cost at a later stage, whilst securing good results for the natural environment.

In an effort to reduce Natural England's carbon footprint, I will, wherever possible, avoid travelling to meetings and attend via audio, video or web conferencing.

From: Hubery, Teresa [mailto:teresa.hubery@doncaster.gov.uk]
Sent: 18 June 2018 15:13
To: John.King2@naturalengland.org.uk
Cc: Ash, Merlin (NE) <Merlin.Ash@naturalengland.org.uk>
Subject: FW: Doncaster: Bawtry Neighbourhood Plan (Screening Opinion)

Hi John,

Hope your well. I'm just following up an e-mail I sent regarding Bawtry's Neighbourhood Plan

nd

(Screening Opinion). If possible, please could you respond by Friday 22 June. If no response is received I'll assume you have no comments to make.

Thank you very much

Teresa

From: Hubery, Teresa

Sent: 17 May 2018 12:26

To: 'John.King2@naturalengland.org.uk'; 'bev.lambert@environment-agency.gov.uk'; 'Craig.Broadwith@HistoricEngland.org.uk'

Subject: Doncaster: Bawtry Neighbourhood Plan (Screening Opinion)

Dear Craig, Bev and John,

Please find attached a draft response to a request for a screening opinion on a Neighbourhood Plan prepared for Bawtry, Doncaster.

We don't believe an SEA is needed in this case, but I'd greatly appreciate if you could take a look at the attached document and the neighbourhood plan documents (link below), and let me know what you think. There is space for you all to fill in your respective opinions or you can e-mail me directly and I'll update the document wholly.

Just one thing to note - there is an SSSI (River Idle Washlands) within the plan area our assumptions are that it's a positive plan protecting the environment and has no impact on an internationally important site but will await your response.

I'd appreciate if you could get your responses back to me by the 8th June to allow the plan to progress.

If you have any questions or require any further information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Bawtry's Neighbourhood Plan available at:

<http://www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/planning/bawtry-neighbourhood-development-plan>

Kind regards,

Teresa

Teresa Hubery

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