

Date: 16 April 2018  
Our ref: 242126  
Your ref: none



Kira Besh  
Sustainable Planning Officer  
Planning Policy  
Mansfield District Council

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

T 0300 060 3900

**BY EMAIL ONLY**

Dear Kira,

**Mansfield District Council Local Plan (Publication Draft) – Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Report**

Thank you for your email on the above dated 10 April 2018 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.

Natural England welcomes the opportunity to provide comments on the Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Mansfield Local Plan, as a statutory consultee and specialist adviser on the application of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, the 'Habitats Regulations'

Natural England commented on the HRA for the draft Mansfield Local Plan by our letter of 02/02/2017 in which we agreed with the overall approach of the document and its conclusion that the Local Plan policies would be unlikely to have a significant effect on the Birklands and Bilhaugh Special Area of Conservation (SAC) either alone or in combination or additionally on the Sherwood Forest possible potential Special Protection Area (ppSPA). The draft report that you have submitted to us provides an update of legislation and an assessment of the emerging policy content of the local plan.

We particularly welcome the further information provided at 5.2.13 regarding the in-combination effect of air quality in connection with the Newark & Sherwood plan. We also welcome the additional content at 5.3.61 regarding development in other authorities in relation to the provision of GI and the protection of nightjar and woodlark.

We note that reference has been made to the new Sherwood Visitors Centre which is welcome. At 5.5.12 we welcome reference to our guidance note but suggest you should explain that it is the 2014 version.

We welcome the additional consideration of the Jubilee Way site (5.5.15 – 5.5.23) and reference to the potential to create additional heathland habitat and the requirement for mitigation measures to avoid impacting the Sherwood ppSPA.

We also welcome the identification within section 5.5 of housing and employment sites within 400m of the ppSPA and which should be subject to project specific assessment in line with the wording for Policy NE2.

Based on the information provided Natural England is satisfied that the draft screening report (subject to final minor amendments) fully covers our concerns and considers that the emerging draft policies of the Mansfield Local Plan have undergone a full Habitats Regulations Assessment screening, in line with appropriate legislation and guidance. We can therefore confirm that we agree with the Report's conclusions that the Local Plan policies would not be likely to have a significant effect on a European Site either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, and no further assessment work is required.

Furthermore we can confirm that we agree with the report's conclusions in respect of the Sherwood Forest possible potential Special Protection Area (ppSPA) that the Local Plan policies would be unlikely to result in a significant effect and that no further assessment work is required.

If the report is significantly changed we would be happy to comment further.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Roslyn Deeming on 02080268500. 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).

Yours sincerely

Roslyn Deeming  
Lead Adviser  
Sustainable Development Team  
East Midlands Area