

Date: 11 August 2014
Our ref: 126304
Your ref: Earls Barton NP



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BY EMAIL ONLY

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Dear Alex

Planning consultation: Earls Barton Neighbourhood Plan – Submission Document

Thank you for your consultation on the above document which was received by Natural England on 15 July 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 submission document and considers that it satisfactorily covers our interests on the natural environment.

We particularly note the clarification in section 1.5 Sustainability Appraisal, where the policy measures resulting from the Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening exercise are set out which will afford the Upper Nene Gravel Pits Special Protection Area (SPA) appropriate mitigation from the development proposed within the Plan.

We also welcome the paragraph in chapter 2 "About Earls Barton", which describes the importance of the Upper Nene Gravel Pits SPA.

The specific reference in the Design policy on the protection and enhancement of the natural environment through the improved management of nationally and internationally protected sites is supported.

We also support the paragraph in section 6.5, Open Spaces, which explains the importance of alternative open space to divert visitor pressure away from the SPA.

As we suggested in our recent email we note the last paragraph in section 7, Plan Delivery and Implementation, which explains that any additional recreation pressure on the SPA will be monitored as part of the wider Local Plan process.

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
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