

Date: 02 May 2014
Our ref: 116804
Your ref: GI Plan



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BY EMAIL ONLY

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Dear Andra

Planning consultation: North Northamptonshire Green Infrastructure Delivery Plan

Thank you for your consultation on the above document which was received by Natural England on 27 March 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.

Green infrastructure Delivery Plan

Natural England welcomes the Green Infrastructure Plan as we consider that it will result in beneficial enhancements to biodiversity, habitat connectivity and quality of life for local residents.

We note that greenspace deficits identified through the application of the Accessibility to Natural Greenspace Standards (ANGst) have been highlighted on page 9 and that some of the proposed GI projects will address these deficits which is a positive step. We also welcome the sections on the Nene Valley Improvement Area (NIA) and the Northamptonshire Arc.

Appropriate Assessment

As you know my colleague, Ross Holdgate, has been involved with both the Delivery Plan and the accompanying Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening report and has checked the potential impacts of each project included in the plan. Natural England can therefore concur with the conclusion given in the Screening Report of no likely significant effect to any European site.

There is one slight error in the HRA report on page 6 where it states: the qualifying features for the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA are the great bittern, gadwall and the European golden plover. This should also include waterbird assemblage in the non-breeding season. However this does not affect our agreement with the overall conclusion.

We would advise that any changes to the projects that may impact on the SPA would require an update to the HRA Screening report.

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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