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**BY EMAIL ONLY**

Dear Cheryl Atkinson

**Consultation:** Sites and policies local plan. Let's talk PLAN Selby Summer 2015 Draft Studies and Evidence Base

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 25 June 2015 which we received 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.

We do not have comments to make for all the questions in this consultation, much of which we consider to be outside our remit, but please find our answers to those questions we deem pertinent to our interests set out below.

**Draft growth options for designated service villages**

**Q10 (DSV)**

Natural England advise that the impact of the plan on Local and National Biodiversity Action Plan habitats and strategic green infrastructure and ecological networks should be considered in addition to formally designated sites like Natura 2000 sites, Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Sites of Interest for Nature Conservation.

**North Duffield**

We note that the sites listed under Biodiversity for North Duffield appear to be confused. Firstly the Lower Derwent Valley National Nature Reserve is not in itself a Natura 2000 site although it overlaps with the River Derwent Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Lower Derwent Valley SAC and Lower Derwent Valley Special Protection Area (SPA). The site is also designated as the Lower Derwent Valley Ramsar and Derwent Ings Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and River Derwent SSSI.

We advise that the SACs, SPA and Ramsar designations are international designations while the SSSI and National Nature Reserve are national designations. As such we do not consider that Figure 1 accurately illustrates the environmental designations and advise that the GIS boundary



data for all these designations is available from the Magic website at:  
[http://www.magic.gov.uk/Dataset\\_Download\\_Summary.htm](http://www.magic.gov.uk/Dataset_Download_Summary.htm)

We advise that Sherburn Willows SSSI lies some 20km to the south west of North Duffield and is not a relevant constraint for the village, however Skipwith Common, which is a SAC, SSSI and National Nature Reserve lies only about 1km to the west of North Duffield so should be considered.

We note that the text of the Landscape Appraisal appears to refer to the landscape of both North Duffield and Church Fenton while Table 1 'Landscape Appraisal Findings' appears to be referring to the assessment of Thorpe Willoughby rather than North Duffield under 'Setting'.

We are concerned that SHLAA site NDuffield-12 in particular lies in close proximity to the Lower Derwent Valley SAC/SPA/SSSI/National Nature Reserve and advise that, given this close proximity and the possibility that land around North Duffield is regularly used by the interest features (birds) of the Ramsar and SPA (and therefore functionally linked), all allocations should be screened in accordance with the Habitats Regulations to determine whether the direct loss of land or increased disturbance would significantly affect the interest features, either alone or in combination with other allocations or policies in the plan. If likely significant effects cannot be ruled out, a detailed appropriate assessment to determine whether the sites will be adversely affected should be undertaken.

In addition to loss of functionally linked land and disturbance the screening of likely significant effects should consider other possible impact pathways including hydrology, air quality and recreational disturbance and that such impacts on the River Derwent SAC/SSSI and Skipwith Common SAC/SSSI/National Nature Reserve should also be considered.

#### Hemingbrough

Natural England disagrees with the assessment that Hemingbrough is not affected by any environmental designations and advise that Hemingbrough lies within 1.5km of the River Derwent SAC and SSSI which should be taken into account for any allocations. In addition we note that Hemingbrough lies adjacent to the locally designated Hagg Lane Green Site of Interest for Nature Conservation (SINC) and that SHLAA sites Hemingbrough-6 and Hemingbrough-18 lie adjacent to this designated site.

#### Riccall

Riccall lies within 2km of Skipwith Common SAC, SSSI and National Nature Reserve which is designated for a mix of wetland, heathland, grassland and woodland habitats as well as breeding birds and invertebrates. We advise that these designations are taken into account for any allocations, including screening under the Habitats Regulations.

#### Barlby and Osgodby

Natural England notes that appendix B makes reference to the ponds SINC to the west of Barlby but advise that, in addition, Skipwith Common SAC, SSSI and National Nature Reserve lies around 2km to the north. This site is designated for a mix of wetland, heathland, grassland and woodland habitats as well as breeding birds and invertebrates. We advise that these designations are taken into account for any allocations, including screening under the Habitats Regulations.

We note that SHLAA site Barlby-9 and either Barlby 2 or Barlby 5 (it is not clear from Figure 4) lie adjacent to the SINC.

#### Ulleskelf

In addition to Kirkby Wharfe SSSI to the west and Haighs Grass SINC to the south you should also consider Bolton and Percy Ings SSSI and the hey meadows SINC which lie around 700m to the east and downstream of Ulleskelf. Regarding the SHLAA sites we note that Ulleskelf-3 is in close proximity to Kirkby Wharfe SSSI and advise that impacts on the SSSI should be carefully

considered.

#### Kellington

Natural England disagree with the assessment that Killington is not affected by any environmental designations and advise that Beal Carrs SINC lies adjacent to Kellington the to the west between Kellington and Beal. Furthermore SHLAA allocations Kellington-1 and Kellington-2 are both adjacent to the SINC.

#### Monk Fryston and Hillam

Natural England advise that SHLAA site MFryston-4 is adjacent to, and potentially overlaps with, the SINC designated pond east of Monk Fryston, furthermore, although it is difficult to decipher due to the cropping of the map and the placement of the legend, it appears that the SHLAA site to the south and west of allocation MFryston-8 (possibly MFryston-9?) may be adjacent to, or even overlap, the SINC to the west of Monk Fryston.

#### South Milford

Natural England disagree with the assessment that there are no environmental designations affecting South Milford and advise that Sherburn Willows SSSI lies around 700m to the north.

#### **Q11 (DSV)**

No comment

#### **Q12 (DSV)**

We advise that environmental constraints such as designated sites, biodiversity action plan habitats and species, protected species, best and most versatile agricultural land and landscapes should be taken into account in the spatial distribution. This should be reflected in the Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment accompanying the plan.

#### **Q13 (DSV)**

No comment

#### **Q14 (DSV)**

No comment

#### **Market Towns Study**

#### **Q16 (MTS)**

a) No comment

b) Natural England welcome the environmental technical issues identified in the accompanying plan.

c) Natural England broadly welcomes the environmental options identified in the plan but would like to see a more ambitious strategic approach to the protection and enhancement of the natural environment in line with para 114 of the NPPF; "...planning positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure."

d) No comment

e) No comment

#### **Q17 (MTS)**

See above answers to Q16 (MTS)

#### **Q18 (MTS)**

See above answers to Q16 (MTS)

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 Merlin Ash on 0300 060 4271 or via email at [merlin.ash@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:merlin.ash@naturalengland.org.uk). 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

Merlin Ash  
Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire Team, Natural England  
Natural England